



**A-LEVEL
UPDATES FROM
LOCAL SCHOOLS**
Pages 3, 4 and 28

Education & Training Pages 16-17
Back to School Pages 20-21

**New £16m unit
at Glanrhyd**
Page 5

A-Level students celebrate 'another successful year'



Pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive were all smiles last week. (See page 4 for more pictures by Malcolm Nugent).

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EDUCATION
chiefs at Bridgend
County Borough
Council (BCBC)
are pointing to last
Thursday's examina-
tion results as
evidence of "another
successful year".

A-Level, AS-Level
and vocational qualifica-
tion results were
released on Thursday,
August 15 and initial
results from WJEC,
which covers about two-
thirds of the total number
of examination
entries from schools in
Bridgend county borough,
point to a number of
improvements.

The proportion
achieving A* and A at
A-Level has increased to
21.3 per cent and is an
improvement of 2.3 per-
centage points on 2012.

The percentage of
pupils gaining a grade C
or above has also
increased to 80.5 per
cent, an improvement of
4.5 percentage points on
2012.

The overall pass rate
has decreased slightly
this year by 0.3 per cent-
age points to 98.6 per
cent, but remains above
the Welsh average.

Coun Huw David,
cabinet member for chil-
dren and young people,
said: "On behalf of
everyone in the county
borough, I would like to
congratulate all our
young people on their

exam success and wish
them the best of luck as
they continue their jour-
ney into their education
and careers.

"Competition for
places in higher educa-
tion and employment
has never been so fierce,
so it's encouraging to
see our young people
rising to the challenge
so positively."

Council Leader, Coun
Mel Nott OBE, added:
"The pressures faced by
young people in the cur-
rent economic climate
mean that education,
training and getting
good qualifications are
more important than
ever before."

"Our young people
clearly recognise this,
and have earned their
grades through working
exceptionally hard."

"I'd also like to con-
gratulate the teaching
and support staff in all
of our schools and the
college. Their support
makes a real difference
to our young people's
development, both ac-
ademically and socially,
and is clearly paying
dividends with these
outstanding results."

It should be emphas-
ised that BCBC figures
will change slightly
when the results of
pupils who sit exams
from boards other than
WJEC are included.

• See pages 3, 4 and
28 for more A-Level
details and pictures.

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'Flying Start' scheme is making a difference...

GETTING out and about during the summer recess, helps me to build awareness of best practice locally.

So far this August, I have been deeply impressed by so much that is happening locally, especially the way organisations work together to achieve the highest of standards.

I have to start with the Flying Start scheme run by the council and funded by the Assembly.

Flying Start is the Welsh equivalent of the English Sure Start, which has faced £430 million in cuts, leading to the closure of 400 centres.

Having seen what is on offer at just two of the local Flying Start fun days in North Cornelly and Wildmill, I am delighted we have avoided the fate of the English schemes.

The aim of Flying Start is to support the development and health of children under four with coordinated schemes run by a range of professionals.

Areas where Flying Start operates are identified by post code with schemes operating in North Cornelly, Bettws, Caerau, Wildmill, Cefn Glas, Brackla, Maesteg Park and the Oakwood Estate.

Help starts with midwife support from 28 weeks of a pregnancy with groups offering relaxation, breastfeeding and parenting advice and guidance.

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for GEM readers.



Health visitors offer a range of advice and support from feeding to fussy eating, toileting to weaning.

They also have access to screening of children's speech and language skills from the speech and language therapy team which offers a baby club helping parents to communicate with their baby from the start of life.

On a practical level, the child and family support team offers information on benefits, debt, housing and other general support.

I spent two wonderful afternoons meeting the workers in the two centres, talking to families, and seeing the difference they made in children's lives.

The team is run by Tina Haddon, who is bubbling with ideas and innovation. If you want more information, ring her on 815168, or email tina.haddon@bridgend.gov.uk.

Many of those who end up in Parc Prison could perhaps have benefited from schemes such as Flying Start.

I am very proud of the work carried out at Parc, where so much is done by staff to try to ensure that offenders have every opportunity to use their time there in a way that will, hopefully,

see them not returning. You may think I am biased by local initiatives, but experts in this field also think Parc staff do an excellent job.

The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) is responsible for monitoring the range and adequacy of programmes preparing prisoners for release and they recently carried out an unannounced inspection of Parc.

As with Flying Start, the IMB commended Parc for its partnership working, which engaged prisoners in extending their knowledge and skills.

The list of partnership working was long and included local employers, the Hay Festival, Cardiff City Football Club and even an archaeological dig.

It was good to know that Parc had earned two UK and Ireland Excellence Awards and one Care and Justice Excellence Award.

It came as no surprise to learn that Estyn, the education inspectorate for Wales, has awarded Parc an 'excellent' rating for its educational outcomes and employability achievements – which was "exceeding prison and national comparators".

I was especially

pleased to see the recognition for the work of the family unit in Parc, where again like Flying Start, there is an emphasis on teaching parenting skills to help prisoners to engage with their children's education, and understanding of relationship skills.

Strong family relationships will help prevent future offending, bring stability into families and, hopefully, end the cycle of children on prisoners ending up in prison themselves.

All of this is carried out by locally-employed people; their work is so successful that visitors come to Parc from around the world to observe and learn about the work they do.

Parc is the only private prison in Wales and the only one in the UK to have achieved the highest level 4 rating in the Ministry of Justice assessment system.

Arts in the market place!

A fine example of partnership working had Bridgend's indoor market traders teaming up with Bridgend Arts for an open evening of shopping, music, performance and art.

Bridgend is a market town because of the indoor market, which provides a wide range of unique goods and stalls.

It was a great evening, I did some shopping, loved the music and had lots of interesting conversation – which just goes to show that sometimes odd partnerships can work and that work can be a great deal of fun.

I was especially

Readers' Letters

IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHNS, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Women in the factory

DID you, or anyone you know work in a light industry factory in Wales between c1945 and 1975?

There were hundreds of factories, and it was mainly women who worked on the production lines.

Following a successful small pilot project in south Wales, the Women's Archive of Wales has received a Heritage Lottery Grant to carry out a substantial oral history project on this theme to cover the

whole of Wales.

It is important to record these histories before it is too late.

Contact 02920 569709 or 01792 893410; by email catrin@stevens2760.free-serve.co.uk or by letter to 'Voices from the Factory Floor' Project Co-ordinator, 10 Bwrw Road, Loughor Swansea SA4 6TX.

Rosemary Scadden and Catrin Stevens (on behalf of Women's Archive of Wales / Archif Menywod Cymru www.womensarchive-wales.org)

AN MP ASKS... 'Why is Bridgend better off than the Vale of Glamorgan?'

OVER the last few weeks, there have been a number of letters in THE GEM, raising points that I had made previously in this newspaper. I hope you will allow me the opportunity to reply.

I am more than happy to underline that the Vale is being short-changed by the Welsh Government.

Why should Cardiff receive £202 more per person than the Vale – and why is Bridgend £226 better off per person?

Equal basis would give us an additional £25m a year.

I agree with a letter writer that this is a matter for the Welsh Government; but still, I surely have an obligation to point out injustices and to fight in the interests of constituents?

I hope people will sign the online petition that is on my website to send a message to the Welsh Government.

Another letter writer questioned why I was acting over the dangerous railings on Dock View Road, Barry. I was even accused of removing a plastic hurdle.

They are missing the point. There is a gap between the pavement and railings on the railway bank that a child can fall through – on to the railway line.

I first raised this with the authority last December and the situation still hasn't been resolved. The situation is dangerous and wholly unacceptable.

I was asked to help because the local authority and councillors hadn't. Naturally, I make no apology for this.

Finally, another political opponent criticised my previous column on benefit reform. This has been long overdue.

We need to help and protect the most vulnerable but surely, if someone can conduct some form of work – with help, they should be expected to do so?

It was wrong to abandon people on benefits for the rest of their lives – wrong for those individuals and their families and wrong for the taxpayer. More than 75 per cent of people in some surveys have supported change.

Naturally, I will continue to champion local and national issues that are important to constituents and will not apologise for standing up for justice from the UK Government, Welsh Government or local authority, wherever responsibility lies.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan.

FOOTNOTE: Do readers agree that Bridgend is better off than the Vale of Glamorgan? Write to us at the address above.

Course fits Dai out for the manager's job!

WHEN he enrolled on an EU-backed NVQ course, Bridgend tyre fitter, Dai Cox, little knew that it would change his life.

Hayley Pells – Dai's boss at Avia Speed Shop – had enrolled him on the customer service course through the Working Skills for Adults project, to "boost his confidence and help overcome his shyness."

However, it has led to the 30-year-old taking over as the garage's service manager.

Hayley, who is director of the service, repair and modification business, said: "This course has been life-changing. I know it sounds like a cliché, but for Dai, it really has been."

"He came to us from a small tyre place, but the pace is very different

here. I needed to up his skills, because we wanted more than just a tyre fitter."

Dai studied for the customer service qualification through the Excelsior Plus NVQ initiative at Bridgend College, and Hayley reported:

"He completely exceeded all our expectations and we found he had a set of skills that surprised even Dai himself."

"He is now our service manager, and has completely nailed the job."

"He's better than me, and I have been doing this for 10 years!"

Dai, from Brackla, said: "It was supposed to bump up my skills ready for further training, but it's made me more confident and done me the world of good."

WHERE OVER-50s CAN MAKE NEW FRIENDS

PEOPLE over 50 can meet new friends and enjoy activities and entertainment at Aberkenfig community cafe's open day on Friday September 6 from 10am – 2pm.

Run by Age Concern Morgannwg, as part of the Big Lottery-funded Community Companions – befriending over-50s' programme, the open day will include information from Valleys to Coast Housing, Bridgend Community Safety, Bridgend Carers Centre and Age Concern Morgannwg; arts and crafts along with live music, refreshments.

From September 6, the community cafe will be run every Friday from 10am – 2pm, at the Aberkenfig Bible Church, Pandyr Road, Aberkenfig, CF32 9PP.

For further details, call 01656 669288, or 01443 490650.

News from the Pencoed WI

JUST over 40 members attended the August meeting when the first item on the agenda was to congratulate two founder members – Vera on her 90th birthday and Barbara on her diamond wedding anniversary.

This year there were 16 entries in the Glamorgan federation show at North Cornelly.

Congratulations were given to one of the newest members, Jan, who achieved a first in the painting competition and a highly commended in the poster competition. The other members who entered were also thanked.

As has become tradition, this meeting was

an afternoon of fun and games, with the committee providing the tea and they were all entertained by a young man called Curtis who played a selection of tunes on his cornet.

The speaker on September 10, is Shenna Crossley, talking about the gardens of Wales.

The 7th Annual charity autumn fayre will be on October 19 in the Welfare Hall from 10am to 12noon.

This year we will be supporting Blood Bikes and we have several stalls selling different items; so please try and pop in, entrance is free, coffee and biscuit 50p.

For further information about Pencoed WI, contact Val on 01656862181, or Pat on 01656860289

Bridgend aid for Africa

A BRIDGEND-based programme linked with Africa has been praised by First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, for its work to support better understanding of the plight faced by Ethiopia as a result of climate change.

Bridgend's Valley and Vale Community Arts has been working with Gemini Trust, based in Africa, to train former street children in arts and photography skills.

With the backing of Welsh Government funding through the Wales Africa Community Links programme, they have created films documenting life in the region.

The group recently worked with Pontypridd-based Labata Fantalle to make a documentary on how the way of life for pastoralists in Ethiopia is

being affected by climate change. 'Gaalli Haadha' – 'a camel is like a mother' – follows young Karraayu herders as they embark on a 200-mile journey through Ethiopia to search for food for their camels.

The First Minister, who is also the AM for Bridgend, said: "This is an excellent example of what we want to achieve through Wales for Africa."

"That a small programme based in Bridgend can make a difference to a community across the world is inspiring."

"This film project has not only provided former street children with new skills but has also resulted in a film which provides a better understanding of how seemingly distant issues like climate change are affecting real people."

LOCAL STUDENTS CELEBRATE A-LEVEL SUCCESS AT PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE



ABOVE: A and AS-Level pupils celebrating their results at Pencoed Comprehensive.

AT Pencoed Comprehensive, staff and students were celebrating a "superb" set of A-Level results – the best the school has ever achieved.

Nearly four out of every 10 grades awarded (38 per cent) were at A*/A or equivalent.

Also, 83 per cent of grades awarded were above C grade, and the overall pass rate was 100 per cent – with no fail grades recorded at all!

Headteacher David George said: "There were many superb individual sets of results, and the great majority of students have been successful in gaining places at university."

Hamish Sproul gained A* in mathematics, A grades in physics and further maths, a starred Distinction in BTEC engineering and the WBQ Advanced Diploma.

Ryan Williams gained A in biology, starred Distinction in Forensic Science, B in English Language and the WBQ Advanced Diploma.

Amber Crews-Rees achieved A Grades in biology and geography and a C grade in chemistry with the WBQ Diploma.

Matthews Cuthbert was awarded an A* in geography, A in history, B in English and the WBQ diploma.

Chris Foster gained A grades in mathematics, physics and chemistry, with a B grade in further maths.

Megan Mattravers was successful in drama with an A grade, starred Distinction in performing arts, a C in English, with the WBQ diploma.

Mr George said: "Congratulations to all students for a superb set of results."



ABOVE: Matthew Cuthbert, Jonathan Barnett, Andrew Pearce (head of sixth Form), Amber Crews-Rees.



ABOVE: Year-13 pupils Eve Thomas, Lauren Barber, Amanda Jones, Zoe Smith, and Jodie Woolaway.



ABOVE: Year-13 pupils Ceri Howland, Hannah Parker, Nia Chilcott, and Chris Foster.

Bridgend College delighted with this year's achievement

Education chiefs at Bridgend College have announced that 151 students achieved top grades this year – equivalent to three A-Levels at grade A or above.

The college currently offers courses which students can use as a stepping stone to higher education or employment and this year, 111 students achieved 'triple Distinction' profiles in their Level 3 extended Diploma programmes. A college spokes-

woman said: "Thirty-two students achieving an incredible D*D*D* portfolio, the equivalent to three A* grades at A level and 420 UCAS points.

"In addition, 12 students studying the CACHE Level 3 Diploma in childcare and education achieved grade As (with 100 per cent of students on the course awarded grade C equivalent or higher).

"A fantastic 28 WJEC Level 3/4 Foundation Diploma in art and design students also gained the highest award possi-

ble."

Simon Pirotte, the chief executive and Principal at Bridgend College, said: "We're delighted with this year's results.

"The number of students achieving the highest possible grades at Level 3 is testament to the high quality of education and support offered across all of our academic areas.

"These excellent results top an academic year that has been full of success for Bridgend College students.

"Most recently, horticulture student, Rebecca John, was

awarded the inaugural Fairwood Trust Bursary, and subsequently shortlisted in the Business Student of the Year category at the Bridgend Business Forum awards.

"Both Francesca Grant (catering and hospitality) and Will Casling (animal care) have been awarded 'Student of the Year' in their respective disciplines.

"Ryan Ball, who is studying creative media production, was selected as one of only five students from Wales to attend the Young European Film Forum in Milan."

Y CARE COFFEE CUP

Y CARE Coffee Cup in the Y Centre, on August 24 (10am to 1pm) offers coffee and biscuits for adults at £1; various stalls; video presentation including Porthcawl YMCA at Young People's Celebration in Prague and helping Bombay YMCA Boys' home.

There will be activities for children, including face painting and an opportunity to see the £600k refurbished Y Centre.

Pay at the door, or tickets are available at the Y Centre. Proceeds to YMCA and Y Care International.

'EXCELLENT RESULTS'

Brynteg Comprehensive School, headmaster David Jenkins reported:

"We are very pleased with our A-Level and AS-Level examination results this year.

"Our pupils have been rewarded with an excellent set of results and we recognise the hard work that they and the staff have put in to achieve this well-earned success.

"The majority of our pupils who applied via UCAS have been successful in achieving a place at university.

"We wish all our pupils well in their future destinations."

Rotarians hand £250 cheque to volunteers

AT a dinner meeting held by Maesteg Rotary Club, a cheque for £250 was presented to the Llynfi Valley Voluntary Aid group, formed to provide first aid at functions in the Valley.

Maesteg Rotary now organises the firework display held at Maesteg Rugby Club and is "very grateful" to the Llynfi Valley voluntary aid group for their assistance on the night.

The picture shows Mr Royston Thomas, who is the group leader receiving the cheque from Talryn Harries, president of the Rotary club.

Mr Thomas, who attended with his wife Marilyn, gave an overview of how the club was formed and its function at the many events they attend – which was well received by members and guests.



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PORTHCAWL HEAD PRAISES 'HARD WORK AND STEADFAST DEDICATION'



Kieran Bluck (top) and Ryan Jenkins.



Joe Strong had four A* grades.



ABOVE: Bethan Masson looks happy.



Leonie McQuaid celebrates.



Sarah Pickett and Mum.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT

THERE were plenty of smiles at Porthcawl Comprehensive School when the A-Level results were announced last week.

A school spokeswoman said: "Hardwork, improvement and success – three short words that accurately summarise Porthcawl Comprehensive Students' AS and A-Level performances for 2012-13.

"Students have had their endeavour rewarded with excellent results. There is a large debt of gratitude for teachers who have worked so hard once again this year, and for parents who have supported their sons and daughters.

"Excellent results truly reflect the effective partnership between a school, its learners and the home."

At A-Level, the pass rate at A* to E was 98.6 per cent, while the A* to C pass rate was an impressive 81.84.

Almost one-third of the whole entry percentage was at the A*/A grade, and 20 students achieved three A grades or better at A-Level, with some achieving four A-Levels.

At AS level, 90 per cent of the entry was A* to E, and 64 per cent achieved the A* to C grade. At AS a very impressive 19 per cent of the entry achieved the A grade.

Headteacher Andrew Slade said: "This excellent series of results will ensure Porthcawl students will secure places at some of the best universities in the country."

Mr Slade congratulated staff and praised students for their hard work and steadfast dedication. He added that the results were especially impressive given the large size of the entry. Over 300 papers were sat at A-Level.

He said: "The departments of drama, English, biology, history, French, Welsh and performing arts performed particularly well.

"Other notable performances came from maths, chemistry, physics, human biology, religious studies, economics, textiles and Welsh Baccalaureate.

"A special mention must go to Joseph Strong, who achieved a most remarkable 4A* grades."

Students who performed particularly well included: Joseph Strong (4A*); Heulwen Everton (2A* and 1B); Jemimah Williams-Rumble (1A* and 3A); Amy Cahill (3A and 1B); Daniel Evans (3A and 1B); Rebecca Lewis (3A and 1B); Thomas Davies (3A and 1E); India Rees (2A* and 1A); Adam Mounce (2A* and 1A); Jonathan Berry (1A* and 2A); Natasha Bryant (1A* and 2A); Gareth Davies (1A* and 2A); Amy Hancock (1A* and 2A); Ben Evans (3A); Leonie McQuaid (3A); Sarah Pickett (3A); Kieran Richards (3A); Benjamin Squire (3A); Kieran Bluck (triple distinction in extended diploma, which is equivalent to 3A* at A-Level); and Ryan Jenkins (triple distinction in extended diploma, equivalent to 3A*.



Ben Evans and Eliot Jones.



ABOVE: Ben Squire.

ABOVE: Gareth Davies.



Jack Gillingham and Jack Couch.



Angharad Masson.



ABOVE: Joe Wiltshire-Smith.



India Rees and Arsha Matthew.



ABOVE: Kieran Richards.



ABOVE: Adam Mounce.



Jemima Williams-Rumble and Demi Davies.



Jess Evans and Mum.



Heulwen Everton.



Kyle Richards phones home.

£16 million mental health unit for Glanrhyd hospital

by PHILIP IRWIN

A NEW £16.4 million unit is to be built in the grounds of Glanrhyd Hospital, Bridgend.

Described as a "low secure mental health unit", it will replace out-of-date wards at Glanrhyd and Cefn Coed.

The Welsh Government has approved the plan, and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University (ABMU) Health Board says that the 28-bed unit will be home to "patients detained under the Mental Health Act, for a range of challenging behaviours - including self-neglect, self-harm and aggression".

As part of their recovery, patients need specialist inpatient support in a unit which, while maintaining their independence, has some security provisions.

It also provides accommodation for



AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE UNIT.

ABMU patients who previously needed to travel to England to be treated at a low secure unit rather than a mental health hospital.

In the new unit will be 28 en-suite bedrooms, as well as communal dining and sitting rooms, a gym, outdoor activity areas and private gardens.

The Welsh Government Health Minister, Mark Drakeford, said: "This new unit will provide appropriate, safe and secure facilities for people detained under the Mental Health Act."

"It brings services closer to home for patients, their relatives, visitors and staff."

Andrew Davies, the chairman of ABMU Health Board, commented: "This is another sign of ABMU's commitment to improving mental health services in our area."

Dr Richard Maggs, consultant psychiatrist, said: "This development will support the delivery of recovery focused care in a modern fit for purpose environment, allowing patients to maximise their potential before returning to their friends, families and communities."

"Upon leaving, they will be better equipped to support their mental health and wellbeing in their own home."

Paul Stauber, the director of planning at ABMU, added: "Preparation work is already under way."

"The old Caswell Clinic, which was in the west wing of the existing Glanrhyd Hospital building, and replaced several years ago, has been demolished, providing space for the new unit."

"The remaining end of the existing building is being renovated and a new fire escape fitted, following the demolition."

"Once this has been completed, construction can start and we look forward to patients using the unit from autumn 2014."

New course aims to help families get healthier

A FREE, fun and healthy lifestyle programme for children in Bridgend county will open its doors next term.

With one in three children in Bridgend County above a healthy weight, the MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition...Do it!) programme aims to help local families become fitter, healthier and happier.

The 10-week after school programme, run by Halo Leisure from

early October, takes place twice a week and will be held at Bridgend Recreation Centre 4.30pm - 6.30pm Tuesday and Thursday, Maesteg Swimming Pool 4.30pm - 6.30pm Monday, and Maesteg Sports Centre 4.30pm - 6.30pm Wednesday.

At the programme, local families with children aged between seven and 13 learn about nutrition and how to maintain a balanced diet and children take part in fun games and activities.

The free course, which was developed in partnership with child health experts at Great Ormond Street Hospital, also includes a visit to

the local supermarket where the children and their parents learn how to read food labels.

Stuart Mitchell, programme manager for MEND at Halo Leisure Centres in Bridgend county, said: "There's no lectures, no laws about what you eat or don't eat. We talk honestly and sensitively about weight and the best ways to get your kids to be more active (even if they don't like PE!) and to eat more of the foods that are tasty and healthy."

"Kids love the activities and games, while the parents tell us that they enjoy learning about healthy eating and

swapping tips with other parents. As well as losing weight, kids leave the programme with more energy and a boost in self-esteem."

Tina, a parent who attended MEND with her son said: "My son was bullied about his weight, so it helped his self-esteem to be somewhere he didn't feel self-conscious."

Places are limited, so call 0800 230 0263 or www.mendcentral.org or speak to Halo Leisure about MEND in Bridgend County on 01656 678862, or www.halo-leisure.org.uk/mend.

Free music in park

FREE music in the park ends in style on Sunday (August 25) at Brynagarw House and Country Park in Brynmenyn from 3pm - 5pm.

Porthcawl-based Overheated Pilots will perform acoustic covers, featuring Dave Lock (vocalist and guitar) and Andrew Cockle (drums and percussion).

"Toy time" characters will also provide fun-filled activities for children.

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Cadets' first class success

Left to right, Cadet Cristian Dafydd, Pilot Officer Hart and Cadet Aaron Davies.

THE latest recruits at 631 (Maesteg) Squadron Air Training Corps, have successfully completed their first class training.

Aaron Davies and Cristian Dafydd have spent the last three months undergoing their basic training and have now become first class cadets.

The training included learning about the histo-

ry of the Air Training Corps and the Royal Air Force, map reading and initial expedition training, airmanship and basic radio communications and demonstrating their competence at foot drill.

During that time, they have both spent 30 minutes flying in a Grob Vigilant motor glider at Swansea Airport.

Later this month, they will be putting their map reading and initial expe-



dition training skills into practice when the squadron spend the weekend camping in

Afan Argoed.

The next step will be to become Leading Cadets, where they will study airmanship knowledge, basic navigation, and principles of flight.

They will also undertake training towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Presenting them with the first class badges, Pilot Officer Chris Hart said:

"I am proud of their hard work over the past few months and look forward to them taking part in more of the opportunities that being a first class cadet in the corps can bring."

631 Squadron meet at Upper Street Maesteg on Tuesday and Friday evenings and welcome boys and girls aged 13 and over.

The Squadron also welcomes adults who would like to help. Adults do not need to have previous ATC or RAF experience and can serve either in a uniformed or civilian instructor capacity.

JF

FREE LEGAL ADVICE FROM HUGH JAMES

Visit a FREE, no obligation, drop in session to discuss whether you are eligible for compensation

Stephen Webber will be in your local area to talk about:

- **Medical negligence** claims including missed fractures, birth injuries, cerebral palsy, mis-diagnosis and surgical complications.
- **Work place injuries** including factory, construction, agricultural, falling from height and fatal accidents.
- **Industrial illness** including asbestos exposure, crystalline silica exposure, mesothelioma, lung cancer, respiratory disease and deafness.

Steve will be at Brackla Community Centre, Oaktree Surgery, Whitethorn Drive, Brackla, Bridgend, CF31 2PG on the date listed below.

Tuesday 27 August

10am - 7pm

No appointment is necessary, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits. Contact:

Stephen Webber

T: 0800 0938240

E: stephen.webber@hughjames.com

W: www.hughjames.com/bridgend

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WI charity supper/concert

COYCHURCH Ladies (Friends of WI) will hold a charity supper concert in aid of Velindre Hospital on September 25.

Following the two-course supper, entertainment will be provided by talented local singer Natasha John. The concert will be held at 7pm in Williams Memorial Hall, Coychurch; admission by ticket only (£12), available from committee members or telephone Sandra Davidson on 01656 669232.

WI meetings re-commence on Tuesday, September 3 at 7.30pm, with varied guest speakers and activities planned for the months ahead. Guests and new members are always welcome.

Children's short story challenge

CHILDREN in Bridgend county borough are being urged to enter an online short story competition.

Youngsters under-12 will transform a choice of six 100-word story openers to create an exciting short tale of their own in up to 500 words.

The competition forms part of the libraries' summer reading challenge.

More information at your local library.

TV STARS RECRUITED AS... Isla's film dream stays on schedule!

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

PROGRESS is being made in the pre-production of a film - *Halcyon Heights* - which features local actress Isla Ure and will be partly filmed in Cardiff and the Vale.

Isla (25) told The GEM recently that the film had been inspired by her late boyfriend Tommy Vine (25), a fellow actor, who took part in an earlier 'short' *Passengers* which the new movie is based on.

Tommy won the 'Best Actor' category at the Under Wire festival for *Passengers*, and it was screened at BAFTA in July. Isla, who lives near Cowbridge, wrote the screenplay and starred in it.

Tragically, Tommy died earlier this year in a swimming accident in Cambodia. A charity, 'Tommy's Fund', was created in his memory to support young artists and performers taking their initial steps in showbusiness.

Isla will co-direct *Halcyon Heights* and star

in it. Filming will start in London on September 11 and will continue for seven days. The cast will then up sticks and move down to south Wales to film for a week and a half.

Isla told The GEM: "We have locked down some very exciting locations, booked our London bus, and are almost on target to get our dream camera."

"We are also honoured and delighted to add some well-known cast members to the team, including Mark Jordon, Mark Sheals and Diana Weston. They all read the script, were excited by it and wanted to do the film."

Mark Jordon has starred in *Heartbeat* and *Doctors*, Diana Weston was best known for the family sitcom *The Upper Hand* with Honor Blackman, and Mark Sheals featured in *Scott and Bailey* and *Coronation Street*.

Isla said: "Probably the most humbling and exciting news is that The Tommy Fund is officially

open for applications after joining up with NSDF and Ideastap!

"We are offering two bursaries of £500 for anyone in the creative arts who is looking for a kick start in their career"

Young people interested in applying for bursaries or people interested in supporting the charity can go to the following web address for more information: www.ideastap.com/Opportunities/Brief/The-Tommy-Fund-Start-Up-Fund-300813#Overview.



ABOVE:
Local actress and film-maker Isla Ure.



ABOVE:
Diana Weston.



ABOVE:
Mark Jordon.

Health watchdog needs volunteers

AN organisation that represents patients' rights is recruiting volunteers in Bridgend county borough.

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Community Health Council (ABM CHC) has several vacancies in the area.

It scrutinises local health services and acts as the eyes and ears of patients and the public, listening to their concerns and working with the health service to improve the quality of patient care.

For further information contact 01639 89 22 71, admin@abmchc.org.uk or visit: www.abmchc.org.uk.

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Tuesday 27th August 2pm - 8pm

at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club, Pysgah Street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend CF33 6BU

or

Wednesday 28th August 2pm - 8pm

at Bridgend RFC, Brewery Fields, Tondur Road, Bridgend CF31 4JE

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www.nfa.co.uk

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0845 434 5768





Young writers are 'over the moon' about sporting debut

A GROUP of fledgling sports journalists have kicked off their careers by attending the international football friendly between Wales and Ireland

at Cardiff City Stadium to write match reports.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's arts and community development team in partnership with the FAW, the bud-

ding writers asked football correspondent Chris Wathan, for some tricks of the trade in a Q&A session, before making notes for their reports.

Wathan said: "It was great to have the chance to speak to budding jour-

nalists, who showed a real enthusiasm for the industry and sports reporting in particular."

The workshop formed a new part of the wider 'Young Critics' scheme, which offers expert guidance to young people to explore the role of the arts critic and discover new ways of expressing their views on arts performances in south Wales.

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "I think that combining our popular Young Critics scheme with sport is a perfect match."

"Football is often described as the beautiful game and I'm sure the budding writers will identify the many similarities between sport and the arts."

To find out more about the Young Critics scheme, contact Guy O'Donnell, arts development officer at guy.odonnell@Bridgend.gov.uk.

ABOVE:
The young writers pictured before the match.

Memories were made of this at Coychurch!

RECENTLY, Coychurch coffee morning group members were treated to a glimpse of days gone by.

Celeste brought in a collection of memorabilia dating back to the early part of the last century. This included pictures and postcards from the first and second world wars, which were of huge interest to everyone.

Many were beautiful, hand-embroidered cards/envelopes sent from the troops in France and Belgium to loved ones during World War One, which were kept and treasured by families.

She also brought in a collection of McGill postcards. These became part of the culture of the English seaside holiday in the 20th century and were enjoyed by thousands of holidaymakers who sent them home to cheer up friends and family!

Unfortunately, the cards were

banned in the 70s but their notoriety lives on and a museum was set up to ensure that the cards and the culture of the British seaside holidays of long ago remain in the public domain.

At another meeting, a director from Wiltshire Farm Foods gave a very interesting insight into how the company markets freshly-prepared products direct to customers' homes.

There were no meetings last month but a day trip to St Fagans on July 11 was organised. It was a lovely sunny day, the weather was perfect and the staff at the museum were kind and helpful. Thanks to Anne, Margaret and Age Concern for a lovely day.

At the first August meeting plans were made to attend the matinee performance of *Olde Thyme Music Hall* in St David's Hall, Cardiff on October 23 which should be good fun.

SC

Local business funding

A BCBC project which helped create 300 new jobs and safeguard over 1,000 more, has been extended.

The Local Investment Fund (LIF) scheme offers assistance to local small and medium-sized businesses, and has received further funding.

The council's economic development unit has been awarded additional LIF monies by the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) to continue its valuable support.

Deputy Leader Coun David Sage said: "I had the opportunity to present a report on the Local Investment Fund to council recently, which outlined the fantastic success of the scheme to date."

"By accessing our LIF grants, local businesses have been able to develop and grow by investing in plant and machinery, ICT equipment, website development, marketing and internal and external building works."

"The scheme has made a significant impact on the local economy by creat-

ing over 300 new jobs and helping to safeguard nearly 1,300 jobs in the county borough. As a council, we are committed to providing local businesses with advice and financial support through the European Regional Development Fund."

"I am also pleased that the economic development unit is already exploring avenues for developing a new scheme of support for local businesses under the next round of European funding."

Ray Pearce, manager of regeneration and economic development added: "To date we have been able to support over 160 companies, both start-ups and existing businesses. Over £1million has been awarded to local businesses to create jobs and stimulate investment and growth."

"Any companies interested in applying for LIF funds should not delay in contacting us. Although we do have extra money, we have already received a substantial demand for the remaining funds."

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE BOROUGH?

Mrs Patricia Phillips – 28 Gwaun Coed, Brackla – Cut back overhanging branches.
Mr Ramazan Kaniyal – Maesteg Charcoal Grill, 25 Commercial Street, Maesteg – Vary opening hours to 01.00 Sunday to Thursday.

Hendre Limited – 7 Ravens Hill, Bridgend – Demolish brick shed and construct single storey extension and provision of new timber shed.

Neville Court Accommodation Ltd – 18 Lias Road and 13 Church Place, Porthcawl – C/U of ground floor 13 Church Place to D1, retain D1 and C3 use and three storey extension to 18 Lias Road with A1 and C3 use.

Mr Steve Williams – Former stores, Garn Road, Maesteg, Bridgend – construct four out-buildings to house rainwater harvesting equipment (Plot 1 – 4).

Mr J Donagh – 3 Riverway, Brynmenyn, Bridgend – retention of use of the land as garden and timber structures – decked patio, tree house and arbour.

Mr Gareth Rees – Land at Moor Lane, Porthcawl – store, sort and dist turf, soil, stone and bark and two agricultural sheds for landscape business.

Mrs Danielle Attard – 5 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – change of use of ground floor to commercial A1, A2, A3 and B1

offices, residential to remain on first floor.

Mrs Eunice Lloyd – 20 Golden Terrace, Maesteg – shower room addition for disabled person.

Mr Russell Skellern – 65 Longfellow Drive, Cefn Glas, Bridgend – extend existing rear dormer to front of bungalow. Executors of Mr DJ Thomas – Land off Waterton Lane, Waterton, Bridgend – three detached dwellings.

Mr Rob Jukes – Port of Call, 63 John Street, Porthcawl – convert existing retail storage/workshop area to coffee shop within existing retail unit.

Mr and Mrs Raikes – 13 Ysbryd Y Coed, Cavendish Park, Penyfa, Bridgend – extensions to side and rear.

Mr Anthony Bowen – 8 Parkfields Road, Bridgend – single storey and two storey rear extension.

Bridgend County Borough Council – Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger, Greenfield Terrace, North Cornelly, Bridgend – mobile classroom unit with boys/girls toilet facilities, lobby and cloakroom area/store.

Mrs SD Rogers – Brynnonen, Morse Row, Brynecethin, Bridgend – side conservatory extension and re-roofing of existing detached garage.

Mr Roy Edwards – 61 Heol Fach, North Cornelly – convert shop with rear and first floor storage to lock-up, ground floor shop and two self-contained flats – resub of P/13/209/FUL.

Mr John Handley – Nottage Court, Porthcawl, Bridgend – install solar panels on outbuilding.

Mr Richard Knight – Woodlands, North Bryn Cynan Farm, Maesteg – new extraction tracks.

Mrs Danielle Attard – 5 Dunraven Place, Bridgend – create two residential units within annexe of main building.

Mr Johns – 3 Leysdon Way, Brynecethin, Bridgend – tiled roof conservatory to rear.

Mr John Evans – 11 Brynglas Terrace, Pyle, Bridgend – single storey and first floor extension.

AH Woollacott – 5A Well Street, Porthcawl – first floor extension over existing annexe footprint.

Mr John Jeffries – Oakwood, Blackmill, Bridgend – remove existing roof and raise walls to 2.30m and new roof.



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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Bridgend and District Quiz League

THERE is a team registration evening on Monday, September 9, at 8pm in Tondy Railway Club, for the start of its 41st season as one of the longest running and popular quiz leagues in the UK.

Anyone interested can come along and take part in an entertaining and free general knowledge quiz on the night, with a buffet provided.

Teams of four, from pubs and clubs in Bridgend county borough, are invited to join this season at a cost of £40 per team, (around 40p per player per match).

Questions are delivered in advance to home venues, with matches played on Monday evenings on a home and away basis, from October to early April.

Anyone interested in forming a team and joining the league can obtain further information from Steve Kingscott on 01656 722754, or via e-mail stevekingscott@yahoo.co.uk.

Angler's delight

AN innovative project is celebrating 10 years of helping local disabled people fall in love with fishing – hook, line and sinker!

Over the last decade, Bridgend County Borough Council's community service team has worked with Glamorgan Anglers Club, to organise regular fishing trips to a lake near Treoes.

The club has since made a number of adaptations over the years to the lakeside to make it the best in Wales for disabled access, and the group fish there twice a week.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycod1@yahoo.co.uk



The community service team is based at the Glan yr Afon resource centre in Ynysawdre, and if you would like to find out more about the fishing project and their other work to help adults with physical disabilities to maintain their independence, and use services in education and leisure, call Jan Morgan on 01656 754958.

Mining disaster

I WONDER how many readers of this column were aware that one of the largest mining disasters in the south Wales coalfields occurred at the Parc Slip coal drift mine, Aberkenfig near Tondy.

This mine began production in 1864 and at the time of the disaster it was owned by North's Navigation Company.

In the early 1890s, a workforce of men and boys was producing 300 tons of coal a day from two faces.

On August 26, 1892, there were a 146 men and boys within the mine. At 8.20am in the morning there was a massive explosion which sent clouds of smoke and flame from the entrance to the mine.

There were two survivors in a pumping station 60 metres inside the mine - they had heard the explosion and threw themselves on the ground and the flames passed over them.

At first, it was believed that they were the only survivors. Because of the discov-

ery of afterdamp, the rescuers had to restore ventilation and it was believed the remainder of the workforce had perished.

At six o'clock the following morning, when fresh air was circulating, the rescuers began a search for survivors. They were about to give up when four survivors appeared out of the darkness. They directed the rescuers further into the mine where others were found alive.

By four o'clock in the afternoon they had brought out a total of 43 miners alive; the final death toll was 112 men and boys.

Thirty nine miners survived the disaster, 14 of them being lead out by 62-year-old William Richards, nicknamed 'Y Dderwen' (The Oak), who received the Victoria medal for his judgement and courage. He died in 1898 and is buried in Coity churchyard.

One family, the Lyddons, had eight members working in the mine on that fateful day, and only two survived.

It was two months after the explosion that the last body was recovered. The mine closed in 1904.

On the site of the mine there is now a monument consisting of 112 stones to represent each of the miners.

On Monday, August 26, there will be a memorial service at 8.15am at the monument, to which everyone is invited.

The monument is in Parc Slip nature reserve and a field on the side of the track leading to the monument was ploughed over and sown with wild flower seeds. At the moment it is in full glory from the yellow of buttercups and sunflowers.

Tondy Horticultural Society
THIS Saturday (August 24), the society will be holding its annual show in Tondy Railway Club.

The exhibits on show should be outstanding, as I have never seen such glorious flower and vegetable arrangements as seen at this society's past shows.

The society is one of the oldest in Wales, always welcomes new members, and the public are invited to see these exhibits for themselves.

Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir

THE choir is the proud owner of its own concert hall and will be holding its annual concert on Saturday, September 21 at 7pm.

The hall, Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale, has full disabled access.

The choir also offers a service to local schools which have in their curricula the history of mining in the south Wales valleys. It has a number of former head teachers, teachers and miners among its members who talk to pupils on the different forms of mines and the methods used to extract the minerals.

Any teacher interested should contact John Jones on 01656 841429.

Maesteg Children's Choir

THE choir, which is a wonderful opportunity for children to expand their musical talents in song and dance, will be commencing rehearsals at Plasnewydd Primary School, Castle Street, Maesteg, on Saturday morning, September 7 at 10am.

The choir welcomes new members from Bridgend county borough and surrounding area, aged from eight to 17.

It would also welcome the services of an experienced accompanist. For more information, telephone 07970 770927.

Ladies' choir
THE Cŵr Merched Cwm Llynfi is holding its annual concert in Maesteg town hall on Friday, September 20, demonstrating its new repertoire under musical director Paul Deenik-Bradley, with aural accompanist Laura Smith.

The compère will be Kevin Johns, and it has a solo performance by Wyn Davies, a chorister with the famous 'Only Men Aloud' choir.

This friendly choir rehearses in Celtic rugby football club, Garth, on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm, and new members will be made most welcome.

BARRY ISLAND WEEKENDERS 2013

FREE FAMILY EVENTS AT BARRY ISLAND

24 & 25 August

Cinema by the Sea Weekender

Barry Island Gardens will host two nights of classic cinema:

Saturday 24 August from 8.30pm

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Sunday 25 August from 8.30pm

GREASE SING-A-LONG

Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy some music before the film starts. Join in the fun and fancy dress is encouraged!

Please note

Barry Island is an Alcohol Free Zone and no alcohol will be permitted at the above events. Also no naked flames including garden candles, barbecues or similar will be allowed onto the gardens during the Cinema weekender



All events take place along the prom or Island Gardens. Please note events may change at short notice. For more information please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com

Bridgend bridge club

The results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, August 14: first Roger Penton and Mike Best, second Mel Humphries and Glyn Williams, third Steve Burgoyne and Ann Fox.

Friday, August 16: first Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams, second Dave and Debbie Lea, third Irene Thomas and John Whateley.

The best placed improvers for Thursday August 8 were Sue Hunt, Stuart Davies and Francis Heslin.

In addition to the reg-

ular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm until 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions primarily for the less experienced and where assistance is available.

In the autumn, lessons for beginners will resume; to register an interest please contact one of Steve Burgoyne (01656 661968) or John Evans (01656 880372), either of whom will welcome your call.

DN

Quiz cheque for Sister Gwyneth



The cheque is handed over. (photo by Keith E Morgan).

H A Y L E Y WILLIAMS, who writes 'Ghostly Tales' column in The GEM, has presented Sister Gwyneth Poacher, with a cheque for £500 towards the Sandville Self Help Centre, Ton Kenfig.

The money was raised at a quiz series. She thanked regulars at The Swan who had taken part in the quiz, as well as Clive and Marion Jones, Kay and David Bodwell, Andrew, her husband, Eddie Edwards (who had also provided the fruit and vegetables from his allotment), and the proprietor of The Swan.

Tenovus walk in Porthcawl

PORTHCAWL Tenovus are holding a 5K sponsored walk on Saturday, August 24.

All are welcome and can register on the day or pick up sponsor and registration forms from the Tenovus Cancer Charity Shop on John Street.

A spokeswoman said: "We are starting at 11am at the Piccolo Bar on the sea front and are walking along the coastal path up to the Lifeguard Station

at Rest Bay and then back again to finish at the Lifeboat Station. All are welcome. This route is children and dog friendly.

"All we ask is for a £5 registration fee and a pledge to raise £10 in sponsorship.

"All cash raised will go towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Tenovus Mobile Cancer Care Unit that delivers chemotherapy to patients in the community."

Mayor's charity support

THE Mayor of Maesteg Coun Ross Thomas, has announced that, following a meeting of the newly-formed Maesteg Charity Fund, he and his team will be fundraising for two local charities during his Mayoral year – Maesteg 3rd Scouts Group and Maesteg Community Hospital day centre.

A number of events will be announced shortly. Some of the proposed highlights include the Mayor joining the Porthcawl Christmas morning swim, a Welsh folk-dancing Twmpath evening (hopefully, near St David's Day) and an organised bus trip to the races in the spring.

Coun Thomas said the nominated charities were well-recognised and highly thought of in the valley.

"Maesteg Community Hospital has long had a place in the hearts of people in Maesteg and many of my relatives have received tremendous care and attention whilst there, so this is my way of trying to give something back."

"In the case of Maesteg Scouts, I think it is important that we provide the youth of the valley with activities and I know first-hand that the group carries out a fantastic role in helping them to become responsible future citizens, engaged in their local community."

The charity fund will hold a coffee morning in September and is inviting representatives from local community groups and organisations to hear the plans and work together for the benefit of the Llynfi Valley.

PORTHCAWL CADETS ARE HEADING FOR CAMP COBRA



MEMBERS of Porthcawl Army Cadet Force are pictured by Keith E Morgan, leaving their HQ for two weeks summer camp at Camp Cobra, Sussex. The Cadets are part of C Company, 5th Cadets, Royal Welsh, Dyfed and Glamorgan.

Plaid campaign against the 'bedroom tax'

PLAID Cymru prospective parliamentary candidate for Ogmere, Tim Thomas, is calling on residents to join a campaign against the UK Government's controversial 'bedroom tax'.

He said: "I am looking to set up an all-inclusive group against the 'bedroom tax' and to provide support and information to anyone down the line who will be negatively affected in any way."

"If you have concerns about the 'bedroom tax' you would be welcome to join the campaign."

"We will be looking to lobby

Bridgend Council and registered social landlords towards a no-eviction policy for any tenants in arrears from loss in housing benefit, and to reclassify the number of bedrooms in properties to limit the impact."

"There are many active groups across south Wales, who are lobbying their councils effectively, and I hope that a Bridgend group can learn and capitalise from their experience," he added.

He is asking people to email tim_tom79@hotmail.com or call on 07552 650550 to support his campaign.

Charity walkers will remember Richard

EACH year, Debbie Yardley, owner of Schaffts hair salon in Bridgend, organises a walk in memory of her friend Richard Jenkins, who tragically lost his fight

against cancer on August 17, 2010.

This year, she has nominated local support group ADHD Bridgend as her chosen good cause and is urging Bridgend residents to join her third annual fancy dress fundraising

walk this Sunday (August 25).

Debbie explained: "Richard's passing happened early in life and he sometimes said that he would never be remembered; so every year I undertake this walk in his honour, along with others who join us. We walk seven miles, in fancy dress, raising smiles and donations as we celebrate Richard's memory."

The walk starts at midday from The Pelican public house, Ogmere-by-Sea, over the historic stepping stones, across Merthyr-Mawr sand dunes, then through Newbridge Fields to the Riverside Tavern, Bridgend.

Mrs Zoe Piper, lead fundraiser and vice-chair of ADHD Bridgend, said: "We are really proud that Debbie chose our group to support this year with her annual walk to remember Richard Jenkins. It's an ideal family day out, whether you're taking part in the walking or not."

"Music, face-painters, bouncy castle, and other surprises will be waiting for the charity walkers and members of the public who want to join in the excitement."

In the evening, there will be a hog roast at The Star in Bridgend town centre from 7pm, followed by singer/guitarist John Davis.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone 01656 725219)

Can you rescue Gordon from a life in kennels?

GORDON is a nine-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier-cross, who is finding life in kennels stressful.

He loves his toys, and a pocketful of treats will soon make him your best friend! He is housetrained, and fine to be left alone for a few hours.

He is currently spending his days over-seeing the staff in reception – he loves to be in good company! He would like an adult-only home with plenty of fuss and cuddles.

If you would like to know more about Gordon, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend. You can also check the website, www.dogstrust.org.uk.

LINDA FEAGAN (Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust Bridgend)



Quiz League testers

YOUR quiz questions for the week:

1. What is the name of the passage that separates Cuba from the island of Hispaniola?
2. Who was the Egyptian leader at the time of the 1978 Camp David Accord?
3. What was the last year that the Tug-of-War was included in the Olympics?
4. Which London-born playwright acted under the name of David Baron before becoming a writer?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1. Windward Passage.
2. Arthur Schnitzler.
3. 1920.
4. Harold Pinter.

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Vale Resort raises £18,000 for the Tenovus charity

STAFF and members of the Vale Resort in Hensol have raised **£18,000** for the Tenovus cancer charity – in just two months.

From climbing mountains, making curries and posing for a 'tasteful' calendar, more than 100 leisure club members, staff and the local community worked together to raise the money for Tenovus at five events in June and July.

Clive Hamilton, a member of the Vale Resort health club and managing director of office solutions company, Pinnacle Group, worked with staff to almost double their initial target of £10,000.

One fundraising activity saw five teams of up to 10 leisure members and staff take on the Three Peaks challenge, climbing the three highest peaks in Wales, England, and Scotland over three days in June.

The Vale gym also hosted a five-day non-stop Trixter bike challenge, keeping the wheels of three bikes spinning for 12 hours a day.

Staff and leisure members took to the saddle for up to three hours at a time, while the Vale Resort's head chef, Daniel James, made



ABOVE: Clive Hamilton, Dan Stuart, and Bethan Palfrey.

homemade cakes to sell with Tenovus t-shirts, to support the bike momentum.

Personal trainers and leisure members posed for a calendar shoot in the Vale Resort gym. There were 150 'July to December 2013' calendars printed and sold at the hotel for £5 a time.

The fundraiser campaign culminated in a curry and auction night, held at the Vale Resort for more than 100 guests.

Donations from the Football Association of Wales and the Welsh Rugby Union were auctioned at the event, as well as a Cardiff City top, the last one worn by

Craig Bellamy before their promotion to the premier league.

Joanna Church, sales and fitness manager at the Vale Resort, said: "We are delighted to have raised such a significant amount for Tenovus in such a short space of time, and it shows what can be achieved if you really put your mind to it!"

"Tenovus does a fantastic job in providing support and care to patients suffering with cancer, and also funds essential research projects into the disease."

"Without support from our leisure members, we would not have been able to organise the string of

events that helped to raise the final sum. It's great to have members like Clive Hamilton who want to make a difference. In tough economic times, to raise £18,000 is a big achievement, and we are very pleased to have donated this to such a worthy cause."

Bethan Palfrey, challenge events fundraiser at Tenovus, said: "A big well done to everyone involved in raising this huge amount. Not only were some of the challenges they took on really tough, but to raise over £17,000 is no easy feat and to do it in such a short space of time is really incredible!"

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A-Level results leave Ysgol Bro delighted!



ABOVE: Cowbridge girl Greta Isaac gained a Distinction in Performing Music, and two A grades.



ABOVE: Nia Spilsbury from Penarth (3As), Celyn Morris (2As and 1A* – going on to study German/Italian); and Rhian Roberts from Bonvilston (3As – off to study medicine at Bristol University).



ABOVE: Ioan Williams (one A and two A*s) and Sam Sturgess (two As and one A*).



Esyllt Jenkins from Dinas Powys (two As and a B) is going on to study pharmacy.



Wil Thomas and Harri Foster-Davies.

AT Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, there was delight at this year's A-Level results.

A school spokeswoman said: "Pupils, parents and teachers at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg are celebrating phenomenal A-Level examination results this year as the school achieved an outstanding pass rate of 100 per cent with each pupil attaining an E grade or above."

"The entries graded at A or A* were 37 per cent, which is 14 per cent above the national average. Fourteen pupils amassed a fantastic total of 45 A* and A grades between them in three or more subjects."

"Amongst the highest performers were Harri Foster Davies with five A* grades, who has been accepted to read medicine at Cambridge and Wil Thomas, with three A* grades who will read mathematics at Bath."

"Leading the way this year as the most popular subjects to study were mathematics and science, and 63 per cent of the pupils who studied chemistry achieved either an A* or A grade. "They were closely followed by the mathematicians, where 60 per cent gained either an A* or A grade, and physics students recorded an equally impressive 57 per cent."

Headteacher Dylan Jones said: "We are delighted that all pupils



ABOVE: Luis Evans (left) and Will Owen – both achieved two As and one A*.

have excelled in their own particular fields, in both the vocational and more traditional subjects and this year all pupils achieved the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate.

"We are extremely proud of the achievements of all our pupils who have fulfilled their potential with excellent results this year in a wide range of subjects, including French, German, Welsh, the humanities and the arts which all recorded a 100 per cent A*-C pass mark. "We are delighted that as a school we continue to cater for and nurture each individual. Congratulations to all the pupils and staff and we wish our pupils well in the future."

The Vale Council cabinet member for children's services, Coun Chris Elmore, said: "As a council, we are delighted by the outstanding

achievements of young people across the Vale, and we are committed to continuing to support teachers, governors and young people in our schools in achieving this incredible success."

"Huge congratulations to all at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, especially Harri and Wil."

PACT MEETINGS

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Mark (and pals) are set for a cross-Channel bike ride

A FIREFIGHTER and his friends are set to take on a marathon cycle ride from Barry Island to Gibraltar – in aid of the charity, Action for Children.

South Wales Fire Rescue Service's Mark Potter, Neil Goodrich, Matthew Price, and Mark's wife, Linette Potter (who will drive alongside the team for support), are planning to set off from Marco's Cafe on Barry Island on September 6 – cycle 1,600 miles across the Continent – and finish at Gibraltar's Rock 16 days later.

The money they raise will go towards Action for Children projects across Wales, including the Vale of Glamorgan short breaks project in Barry, which provides services to children and young people with disabilities.

The breaks help local children take time away



ABOVE: The team is pictured with Marco at the cafe.

from their normal lives, enjoy exciting new experiences, and give them the chance to make new friends and have fun.

Speaking of the forthcoming journey, Mr Potter said: "We've taken part in a cross-country bike ride before, but we've never attempted to cross an entire continent. The boys are gearing up for the challenge and we've each been putting

in about four hours of training a day – we'll need to be in good condition to hit our target of 100 miles per day."

The trek will see the five travel 160 miles from Barry to Poole, where they will cross the Channel with support from Brittany Ferries. The last leg of the journey will see the group cycle from Cherbourg, France, to Gibraltar in a 1,500 mile stretch.

Mr Potter continued: "The fact that we're doing this to help disabled, disadvantaged, and vulnerable children and young adults, and their families is really strong motivation for us."

"In some ways, Action for Children's job is understated – many people aren't aware of the work that they carry out in the community, helping vulnerable individuals to overcome abuse, discrimination and a lack of understanding."

"But this doesn't mean the work they do is any

less important. They help these young people to fulfil their potential, and to reach aspirations in their lives that would of almost certainly not been available to them otherwise."

"They help these youngsters to cope and teach them life skills. We hope to raise as much money as possible for their cause."

Stephen Wornham, fundraiser at Action for Children, said: "We're extremely grateful to Mark, Neil and Matt, who are doing such an extraordinary feat for the young people and families that we support."

"We'll be following their progress each day from their twitter feed, set up especially for the ride, and we hope that people really get behind their efforts and support them. We wish them all the best and look forward to cheering them to the finish line."

Choir a hit with staff and patients

MORE than two dozen staff at Llandough have joined the newly-formed University Hospital choir.

It is also a hit with patients who are listening into rehearsals of the choir set up following the success of the hospital's carol service last December.

Rev Dr Avril Dafydd-Lewis, one of the driving forces behind setting it up, said: "Those of us who are already established in the choir wonder how we managed without it."

"It has been a great boost to morale and our working environment."

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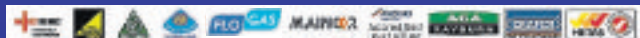
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1940s kitchen – in time for Wartime Weekend!

WITH only two weeks to go until the annual **Barry Wartime Weekend** event, **Barry at War Group** have opened their latest attraction at the **Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre – a wartime kitchen.**

The Wartime Weekend organiser, Ade Pitman, explained: "I personally couldn't live without a microwave and freezer, but these are relatively new appliances in the home."

"Our 1940s kitchen exhibit that we've managed to squeeze into our tiny museum, aims to educate people about domestic life back then."

"We're still looking for some items to finish the project. One such item is the front screen of a 'pie cupboard'. This was a simple cupboard that using a stone shelf helped to keep pies and other meat products cool."

"The popular use of fridges didn't come around until the late 1950s, and even then they were luxury items."

Ade continued: "The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre is often referred to as a military museum, although we aim to show the Home Front of the area's

wartime heritage."

"The Barry Wartime Weekend event, which will be held on the weekend after the Bank Holiday, will show many other aspects of the Barry Home Front during the Second World War."

"There will be air raids, escaped German Prisoners of War and an exhibition by the 'Sallywags' of the British Resistance who would have been Britain's last line of defence should the Nazis have invaded."

"Many local schools are studying this period of history from September so we hope that families will take the opportunity to bring their kids to this free educational family event."

"We will be bringing history to life, and would encourage children to make their own gas mask boxes, and to dress as evacuees. There's information about this at the Wartime Weekend website."

SPITFIRE REPLICA
Visitors can also get up-to-the-minute information of what's taking place by following the event at the Wartime Weekend Twitter feed @WartimeWeekend.

Along with the Home Front, Barry Island will bristle with military hardware.

There will be weapons

and military vehicles on display at the Barry Tourist Railway Station, and a full-sized replica Spitfire, kindly sponsored by Barry Town Council will be located inside the Barry Island Pleasure Park.

Adding to the Forties nostalgia, the 'Back to 43' 1940s party, featuring three of the best period acts in the UK, will be held at the Barry Island Community Centre, on the Saturday evening.

Advance tickets are available at a reduced price of £5, or £3 for OAPs.

Ade concluded: "The Barry Wartime Weekend aims to be a fun packed and educational community event to conclude Barry's summer season of events."

"Money raised at the

event will go towards supporting the work of the Barry at War Group, and to fund further improvements to the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre.

"Visitors will have the opportunity to enter a simple quiz about our wartime heritage, while kids can win a prize for finding the six rats hidden around the show."

"We will also be holding a raffle, with the winner having a professional photograph of them dressed in RAF uniform sitting in the Spitfire."

You can find out more about the Barry Wartime Weekend or the 'Back to 43' 1940s party by visiting the website at www.wartimeweekend.co.uk, or by calling Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.

Sony in line for an award

PENCOED-based Sony UK technology centre has been shortlisted as a finalist for the 2013 Best Factory Awards (BFA).

The awards, which are now in their 22nd year, recognise manufacturing excellence in the UK and are run by Cranfield School of Management, in partnership with the magazine Works Management.

Sony is the only Welsh organisation to make the shortlist and is now one of the 14 companies selected to compete for the prestigious prize of BFA Factory of the Year.

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ABOVE: Ella Jones with assistant head Mrs Jenny Edwards and Mr Basil Watkins.

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The children performed their 'History of Pendoylan School' show with their usual excellence, and some well-deserved awards were handed out.

Special congratulations go to the 'David Watkins Award' winners Daisy Buick and Ella Jones, who were rewarded for their all-round contribution to school life.

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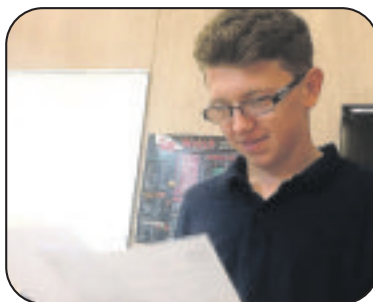
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EDUCATION & TRAINING

...Blake is off to study 'sports and science exercise'

BLAKE WALL achieved an A, two Bs and a C in his A-Levels, securing his place at Aberystwyth University to study sports and science exercise.

He attended Ysgol Sant Curig Primary School then Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg Comprehensive, before completing his A Levels in English at Barry Comprehensive.



BLAKE WALL

Porthcawl Comprehensive School

OPEN EVENING FOR YEAR 7 INTAKE IN 2014

To be held at 6.00 pm Thursday 10th October 2013

The school is holding its **Annual Open Evening** for those parents who wish their children to attend Year 7 in September 2014.

Anyone interested may obtain more details and 'The Welcome Pack' by e-mailing OpenEvening@PorthcawlSchool.co.uk or by telephoning 01656 774100.

Porthcawl is a traditional school with a proven track record of excellence for all. Examination results have been consistently above local and national averages.

This is what Estyn (School Inspectors) said about us:-

"Transition arrangements from both primary into secondary and into the Sixth Form are very strong. The outstanding primary/secondary liaison is very well co-ordinated".

"Behaviour is very good, based on self-discipline and outstanding relationships exist between students and teachers".

"The overall provision for pupils and students personal development is an outstanding feature of the school".

"The quality of the accommodation is good and in some areas very good. The provision of ICT facilities is an outstanding feature of the school".

"The school has a very rigorous approach to bullying; there are very good follow up procedures".

"There is an exceptional range of extra-curricular activities, held mainly during lunchtimes and after school, the participation rates are very high".

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Porthcawl 'delighted' with A-level results

PORTHCAWL Comprehensive School is "delighted" with its excellent A-Level results, having again outperformed the local and national averages.

A remarkable 33 per cent of the entry resulted in the top grades of A* or A. Headteacher Mr

Slade says the success is due to the hard work and dedication of staff and students, and the vital support from parents at home.

As September looms, Porthcawl Comprehensive School is set to welcome record numbers of year-7 and year-12 students and this year will be joined by pupils from 15 differ-

ent primary schools.

Clearly, parents have confidence in our school, and the recent results certainly repay this confidence in us.

• Any parent who wishes to have more information about possible entry to our school, can obtain a welcome pack by telephoning the school on 01656 774100.

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WELSH Day on King's Square, Barry, takes place on Wednesday, September 4, from 10am – 5pm.

Visit Dilys the Campervan to find about Welsh courses, take part in a circus workshop (between 12pm and 4pm) and enjoy FREE Welsh taster courses at the library all day!

Cymraeg over a Cuppa: September 5, Blue Deli Cafe, 3 Thompson Street, CF63 4JL at 3pm.

Come and talk to Welsh learners about their experiences and enjoy a FREE cuppa and a cake! **Supermarket Radio**

Roadshow: September 6, at Morrisons, Penny Way – all day!

Come down and see the Real Radio presenters, learn about Welsh courses, and get some freebies!

Tedi Twt Welsh Storytime: September 7, at Barry Library/Llyfrgell y Barri – 12pm.

Enjoy reading some Welsh books with your children. Don't forget to bring your teddy!

Sign up evening: September 9, at Barry Comprehensive School/Ysgol Gyfun y Barri – 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

Chat about which Welsh course

would suit you best, and find out about any fee concessions you may be entitled to.

Sign up day: September 10, at Barry Library/Llyfrgell y Barri, 10am – 1pm.

Come along for a chat and also, enjoy a FREE Welsh taster course!

Sign up evening: September 11, at Palmerston Learning Centre 6.30pm – 8.30pm.

A chance to have a chat about which Welsh course would suit you best and find out about possible fee concessions.

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Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Council



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Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Council

'A New Journey' for the 16-24 year olds

WHETHER they have received disappointing grades or it has been some time since they left school, 16-24-year-olds can now access advice and information by attending their New Journey events next month.

New Journey is a partnership programme funded by the Job Centre Plus, touring the Vale, and talking to young people about education, employment and training, alcohol and drugs, local services, volunteering and housing.

New Journey events: **Wednesday, August 21, King Square, Barry, 12pm-**

4pm; Wednesday, September 4, Cogan Leisure Centre, Penarth, 1pm-4pm; Wednesday, September 11, Cogan Leisure Centre, Penarth, 12pm-4pm; Wednesday, September 18, VCVS, Holm View, Gibbonsdown, 1pm-4pm; Wednesday, September 25, VCVS, Holm View, Gibbonsdown, 1pm-4pm; Wednesday, October 2, VCVS, Holm View, Gibbonsdown, 12pm-4pm.

For more information, contact Vibe Experience on 01446 700 622 or email louise@vibeexperience.com.

MORE PASSENGERS AT CARDIFF AIRPORT

FIGURES released by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) show Cardiff Airport passenger numbers have grown by 6 per cent, totalling 134,173 in July compared to the same month last year.

This follows 9 per cent growth in May and 10 per cent growth in June, making an average growth of 8.3 per cent for the three months.

"The rolling year comparison shows passenger numbers rising over the million passenger mark to 1,016,603 for the period August

2012 to July 2013. August has also started well with the first week recording an increase of 17% over the same week in 2012," an airport spokesperson said.

The airlines which showed the strongest growth were Vueling, Air Malta, and Aer Lingus. The increased schedule introduced by Vueling shows passenger growth soaring over 2012 due to the new three times a week service to Malaga and Alicante. Barcelona also proved popular increasing over the same time last year.

Commenting on the figures, Jon Horne, Chief Executive of Cardiff Airport said: "This is really positive news and it is great to see pas-

senger numbers growing once again. It is a relatively small start, but we are confident there is a trend established and the beginning of our strategy to win back those passengers that have been lost to Bristol and other airports in England.

"The challenge for us is straightforward, if we bring back the choice of flights, people will choose Cardiff again and this is what is happening. The point has been proved by Vueling, whose capacity has increased by 97% in 2013 compared to last year, and people are responding to that choice."

Half marathon test for an AM

Plaid Cymru AM, Bethan Jenkins, is to tackle the Cardiff Half Marathon in October – to raise funds for the Muscular Dystrophy campaign.

She will join a group from the charity taking part in the run, dubbed 'Team Orange' owing to the campaign's striking brand colour.

Funds raised will help it to support groundbreaking research into the muscle-wasting condition.

She explained: "The Muscular Dystrophy campaign is a cause close to my heart.

"Growing up in Merthyr, a friend of mine from the village of Heolgerrig had muscular dystrophy. We were very close, but he sadly

died many years ago.

"We spent many a weekend fundraising on his behalf, and for others in the area, by organising bring and buy sales, cake sales, sponsored walks and so forth. I take great pride in having helped out, if only in a small way, as a child.

"Now that I am an Assembly Member, chairing the cross-art group on Muscular Dystrophy, I am running to raise awareness of the work that groups across Wales do in this field."

• To find out more about entering the Cardiff Half Marathon for the Muscular Dystrophy campaign, visit http://www.musculardystrophy.org/get_involved/fundraising_event/s/6289_cardiff_half_marathon.

Budding star Olivia meets a legend at Wimbledon...



LEFT: Tim Henman with Olivia Chivers.

BARRY tennis prodigy Olivia Chivers experienced the thrill of a lifetime on Saturday as she joined former British No.1 Tim Henman at the HSBC Road to Wimbledon National 14 and Under Challenge Finals.

The 14-year-old Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School pupil, who qualified for Wimbledon as one of 20 runners-up having finished second in the Glamorgan County Finals, beat both Alexandra Kendal and Aisha Brown in her group games before exiting the competition following a 6-1, 6-2 defeat to eventual semi-finalist Nell Miller.

The David Lloyd Tennis Club star revealed arriving as a player at the All England Lawn Tennis Club this year was without doubt the highlight of

her summer: "It felt really good to be playing at Wimbledon on the courts as it is a very special place and it was great to meet Tim Henman," said Olivia.

"My dream is to make it back here one day as a professional tennis player, which is why it was so good to see Andy Murray win his second grand slam here."

More than 20,000 children from all over Britain competed throughout the summer in pursuit of following in the footsteps of Andy Murray by playing at Wimbledon, with the top 128 boys and girls earning the chance to compete at the National Finals.

She even got the chance to meet former British number one Tim Henman – an ambassador for HSBC, sponsor of the Road to Wimbledon – as he spent time with the players, signed autographs, and posed for photos with the finalists.

"The excitement of coming through the gates is still the same for me. It has the best tennis tournament in the world and it is a huge motivating factor for all the kids," said Henman, a four-time Wimbledon semi-finalist. "You see them out here on the grass where the greats of the game played and it is inspiring and that is where Wimbledon plays a huge part in generating the sport's interest."

The HSBC Road to Wimbledon National 14 and Under Challenge is the UK's largest national junior grass court tournament and forms part of HSBC's investment in the stars of the future.

HATTIE LEE

Changes to school meals payments

FROM September, parents will no longer be able to pay for their children's school meals by cheque.

The Vale Council is implementing a new payment system and is asking parents to air their views.

Cash payments will still be accepted, but these will also be phased out over time. Instead, parents will need to make payments for school meals via the following methods: telephone payment; online payment; or Pay Point.

Visit the school meals pages on the council's website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or call 01446 700 111.

Volunteers raise £2,200 for children's charity

THE local Barry committee of the children's charity, Action Medical Research, is saying 'thank you' to local companies and schools who have taken part in the annual cream tea fundraiser and afternoon tea organised by the charity.

Volunteers delivered cream teas directly to the workplace, and also offered a traditional afternoon tea party in a local hall on July 5 and August 16. Over 350 cream teas were delivered to schools and businesses in Barry, Penarth and Dinas Powys.

With help from Sainsbury's local, Co-op, Tesco, Morrisons and Marks and Spencer who donated scones and strawberries, £1,500 was raised from the cream teas and £700 from the afternoon tea by the Barry committee for

the charity. The money will help fund the charity's vital life saving work, like one of the projects currently being funded at Cardiff University that is studying Smith-Lemli-Opitz syndrome, a rare and often devastating illness with no cure and no treatment.

FASHION SHOW

A fashion show by Samantha B fashions of Ewenry, is being held on Thursday, September 26 at 2.30pm in the Millennium Hall, Barry.

Tickets may be obtained from Samantha B fashions or Tracey Edwards.

To find out how your company can get involved, or if you wish to become a committee member, contact Tracey Edwards, community fundraising manager on 01225 776691.

Comic book film is great, BUT NOT FOR MORAL GUARDIANS!

WHILE the superhero genre continues to go from strength to strength, it was given a well-placed blow to the unmentionables by 2010's *Kick Ass*.

Taking the genre and running it through the everyday world, it was action packed, realistic and witty as hell, making the odds of a sequel very high.

In *Kick Ass 2* (again adapted from Mark Millar and John Romita Jr's comic book series), we meet up again with Kick Ass (Aaron Taylor Johnson), whose actions have inspired many other costumed crime fighters.

When he joins up with a group led by Colonel Stars and Stripes (Jim Carrey), the plan is to eradicate crime for good – but when the returning Red Mist (Christopher Mintz Plasse) decides to pursue Kick Ass and his group, it calls for the specific set of skills of the retired Hit Girl (Chloe Grace Moretz)...

Three years ago the moral guardians of the country became appalled when *Kick Ass* hit screens; with a mind-

blowing level of violence and (even worse) an 11-year-old girl hurling expletives while murdering nameless henchmen, the film was criticised and pilloried.

This time around, one of the film's own stars, Jim Carrey, has publicly declared he cannot promote a film with such a casual attitude towards violence (which makes you wonder why Mr Carrey took the job in the first place on the evidence of the first film).

It's a shame that such a furore has developed over something so frivolous, as while *Kick Ass 2* certainly pushes the boundaries of taste and violence, it is also an film that is not shy to highlight the negatives of vigilantism and also the importance of youth and being your own person.

In fact it is just as good as the first outing, the only black mark going against it coming from director Jeff Wadlow, who does a sterling job but whose lack of experience is highlighted during some of the action sequences.

What Wadlow does do well is adapt the source material to fit the big screen - no matter how much you think the boundaries have been pushed on film, the

pages of the comic book are far more shocking, and Wadlow manages to filter this to make it edgy but without the caustic feel that springs from the pages.

The performances all strike the right notes with Aaron Taylor Johnson bringing a more subtle and grown-up turn as the titular hero, burdened by the pressures of home and of his alter ego, while Chloe Grace Moretz anchors the film as her character learns there is more to life than shooting guns and killing bad guys, her story arc carrying the most weight and the actress delivers an outstanding turn.

There are satisfying small turns from the likes of Carrey (his vigilante sequences now come with a massive dollop of irony), John Leguizamo and Morris Chestnut, while Christopher Mintz Plasse lays McLoovin' to bed in a turn that is by turns shocking and hilarious, but highly watchable.

With mature, dramatic themes underpinning the more over the top aspects of the story, *Kick Ass 2* manages to equal its progenitor, the film a suitable follow-up that, on the basis of a small post-credits scene, should hopefully return

for a third outing.

VERDICT - A sequel that delivers just as much shock and awe as its first outing, *Kick Ass 2* is a delightful film if not one for the squeamish and the self-righteous.

Hilarity mixes with moments of real pathos as Mark Millar and John Romita Jr's comic book makes a successful, and stylish, visit to the big screen. Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Kick Ass* (2010), *The Dark Knight* (2008)



by **GARETH JAMIESON**
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Vale MP welcomes 'falling jobless rate'

THE Vale's Conservative MP, Alun Cairns, has welcomed unemployment data for Barry and the rest of the Vale recently published by the Office for National Statistics.

He reported: "The number of unemployed claimants in the Vale constituency in July 2013 was 2,018. This represents a rate of 4.3 per cent of the economically active population

aged 16 to 64. The number of claimants in the Vale is 419 lower than in July 2012 and shows a further reduction than the figures for June this year.

"It's so good to see that the fall in unemployment figures for the Vale continues. The downward trend in the number of claimants for the Vale continues a consistent fall over the last eight months.

"Another positive for the local economy across our communities in the Vale, is that the employment rate is rising," he said.

"In my role as a small business ambassador, I'm particularly pleased

to see that over 1.3 million new private sector jobs have been created in the last three years across the UK.

"I'm keen to make sure that the issues raised with me by small businesses and traders across the Vale are heard in Government, and that changes can be made to best support our entrepreneurs and small business owners grow their companies.

"The latest example of this was when I attended the launch of Pawfection – a great new Barry business created by Michelle Inch, herself a young ambassador with the Prince's Trust."

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 788.

● **£2,000: 789325.**
● **The rollover, which now stands at £4,500, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 550336, 625814, 809510, 752982, 777038, 914487, 646998, 387737, 103784, 986758, 376811, 900633, 171847, 402845, 346469, 515290, 854506, 563343, 169891, 385787.

● **£5:** 199939, 870378, 898147, 772174, 313841, 439240, 882881, 581112, 399060, 741161, 839834.

281421, 854883, 131365, 334968, 132346, 437395, 860303, 348293, 596590, 553477, 819959, 529637, 591872, 318067, 423017, 612370, 639320, 606394, 868133, 690582, 451862, 432087, 106751, 653479, 850582, 846361, 111917, 530009, 645201, 488000, 792574, 347819, 190262, 405067, 471985, 170578, 800788, 375866, 246951, 214025, 760995, 299852, 550817, 993415, 795900, 443657, 707250, 587965.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

CHURCH OPEN FOR FESTIVAL

THE public will be invited to visit St Mary's Church, Penmark (c1200), which will be manned from 12midday – 5pm on Saturday, September 7, when the popular PENFEST Music Festival takes place in the village.

Enjoy a display of parish people and take the opportunity to peruse registers of baptisms, marriages and deaths. Call 01446 719420 for details.

Water bus and skittles outings

THERE is no official meeting in August, but Cadoxton (Barry) WI members are still active.

On August 7, they visited Cardiff Bay, and again used public transport and bus passes. After a stroll through the man-made beach where children were having a wonderful time, and through the show-ground and crafts stalls, it was time for a break.

After lunch, a water bus took members to the city centre and Bute Park. The following week was the annual skittles match between Sully and Cadoxton, held at Barry Dock Conservative Club.

Sadly, Cadoxton lost the match, but Sully had the duck! Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at Victoria Park Community Centre at 7pm.

Guests and new members are welcome. Contact 01446 404891 for more information.



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Out and About with The GEM

Girls' night out with Jo Carnegie at book festival

ONE of the aims of the Cowbridge Book Festival is to provide a varied programme of events and, with this in mind, the festival's autumn series will get off to a flying start with the return of popular Jo Carnegie.

Over the last two years Jo, who was deputy editor of *Heat* Magazine and has been described as the new Jilly Cooper, has established, quite a following in the town.

She's funny, sexy and quite irreverent and at last year's event, she let it slip that most of the character research for her new book *Party Games* had been done in and around Cowbridge!

Apparently, Jo spent a lot of time as an onlooker at the Food and Drink Festival and

also enjoyed an afternoon at the Ystradowen Point to Point, so who knows, you might feature in this book or even recognise the neighbours!

One thing is certain, the characters in Jo's fictitious town of Beeversham will be hell bent on breaking all the rules and hilarious mayhem must follow!

A lively and 'naughty' night out is what's promised, so don't miss out!

A 'Girls Night Out with Jo Carnegie' will be held at the Quarter Penny Café, Cowbridge, on Thursday, September 12, from 6.30pm. Tickets are £20 and

include a glass of wine, buffet supper and a signed copy of Jo's book.

All proceeds will be donated to The Noah's Ark Appeal Children's Hospital of Wales and Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

For further information, including more detail on this book, visit the Festival website www.cowbridge-bookfestival.co.uk

Tickets are available from David Barnes (Dry Cleaners) 35 High Street, Cowbridge; Nickleby's Pound Field, Llantwit Major; or online from TicketlineUK 02920 230130. SRC

Penarth Book Festival line-up

TWO award-winning writers, Jasper Fforde and Belinda Bauer, are in the line-up for the 2013 Penarth Book Festival, in the town from October 16-21.

Fforde, author of the *Thursday Next*, *Nursery Crime*, *Shades of Grey* and *The Last Dragonslayer* series of books, will be talking about his writing and taking part in a question and answer session.

Belinda Bauer, winner of the Crime Writers Association 2010 Gold Dagger Award, will talk about her new novel *Rubberneck* and about writing contemporary crime fiction.

Joe Dunthorne will be giving a pre-film introduction and reading at an exclusive screening of the film of his novel *Submarine* at the newly-refurbished Penarth Pavilion.

Former British and Irish Lion John Dawes, Radio 2's resident allotment expert Terry Walton, and Paul Moorcraft (political journalist), will also be in attendance.

There will be a children's day on Saturday, October 19, with visits from the Gruffalo and Poppy Cat and a dramatic song recital, adapted from Tennyson's classic poem *Maud*.

Award-winning performer, baritone Richard Parry, will re-create the rollercoaster dramatic classic.



Belinda Bauer



Jasper Fforde

A unique engine gets up steam for Wartime Weekend

A UNIQUE Edwardian Steam Railmotor will help to take the Barry Tourist Railway back to the glorious days of steam for this year's Barry Wartime Weekend (August 31 to September 1).

John Buxton, director of the Barry Tourist Railway explains: "Built by the Great Western Railway in 1908, the steam-motor was unusual in that it was a very long carriage with a steam locomotive built within the coach body."

"This was innovative for the time, and this historically significant train is the fore-runner of all modern trains."

"The Railmotor improved operating flexibility and allowed more train services to be run compared to having a separate locomotive. This unique train survived because when the steam power bogie became life expired in 1935, the Great Western Railway converted the

Railmotor into a coach.

"Fastidiously re-built, this amazing vehicle was restored in 2011 with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Original-type seats were found in Australia for the vehicle, and these make travelling on the train just like stepping back 80 years."

"It is the only Steam Railmotor in the country and will give passengers a true insight into travel on the south Wales network many decades ago."

The Barry Tourist Railway will again be evacuating school children to the safety of Barry Island, in a re-enactment of the wartime evacuations.

Event organiser Ade Pitman explained: "At the beginning of the Second World War Britain expected immediate air raids on the cities by Nazi bombers. Families were encouraged to evacuate their children to the safety of the countryside; and many children left English cities for rural Wales."

"Some children saw

this as a holiday, but for others it was a traumatic experience."

"When the air raids didn't appear many children returned home, only to find themselves back in cities that were soon under assault by nightly air raids. My own mother and her family evacuated to Devon during the Cardiff Blitz."

Barry at War Group would like to hear from primary schools wishing to participate in the special evacuation train event. Headteachers should email Ade Pitman at ntlworld.com for more details.

NANTGARW CHINAWORKS MUSEUM
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Race for Bobath!

THERE are still boats available for Bobath's annual Dragon Boat Race on Sunday, September 15, at Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff Bay.

The charity is appealing for teams of 11 "passionate paddlers", minimum age 12 years, to compete in this colourful team event.

"Not only will it be an exciting day for all involved, sponsorship raised from the event will make a real difference to children in Wales who have cerebral palsy," said Claire Brown, Bobath's events co-ordinator.

Contact the fundraising team on 029 20522600, or email fundraising@bobath.wales.org.

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(Statistics provided by the Eyecare Trust and based on DCSF 2009 School Census 0-12 year olds). Research shows that around 20 per cent of school-aged children have an undiagnosed vision problem – that's one in five children. (Professor David Thomson, City University, London).

Over 90 per cent of children visit a dentist regularly, while only 53 per cent of children have ever had an eye examination. (Johnson & Johnson, Vision Care Survey 2009).

A total of 84 per cent of parents agree that improved vision would have a positive impact on their child's performance at school. (Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Survey 2009).

At Jones & Jones, a proper sight test is free for all children under the age of 16. Why not book an appointment for your children today on 01446 400015, or visit us online at www.jonesandjones.org.uk.



Sports, play and a free family fun day



THE Vale Council's sports and play development team recently hosted a free family fun day, featuring a packed schedule of play activities and sports to mark the start of the summer play programme.

More than 300 adults and children enjoyed play activities and sports at King Square and Central Park, Barry. The event was also part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Legacy programme, celebrating a year since the opening of the games in London.

From athletics events, including hurdles and standing long jump – to basketball, football, rugby, tennis and golf sessions, as well as play activities

such as arts and craft, den building and sand and earth play – there was something for everyone to enjoy.

A drum workshop also brought a musical element to the day with a selection of different drums available for the children to experiment with.

The sports activities were arranged by the Vale Council's sports and play team, as well as members from local sports clubs and also coaches from national governing bodies of sports such as the Welsh Rugby Union and Badminton Wales.

The aim was to encourage youngsters to try various activities. Children collected a sticker for each activity they tried.

Once five stickers had been collected, they were able to exchange their sticker collection for a prize, certificate or medal.

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RUCKLEYS, the uniform specialist in Barry, has moved!

Come visit the spacious new store at 45 Holton Road (next to Flame N Grill), Thompson Street end of Holton Road.

As well as stocking the usual school uniform basics, such as socks, trousers, skirts, pinafores, gym kits, cardigans, hair accessories and coats, they now stock a large proportion of local schools' official uniforms.

These schools include St Helen's, Sant Curig, Barry Island, Oakfield, Rhws, Barry Comprehensive and Barry sixth form.

They have a changing room and are open seven days a week; also offering an easy-plan uniform club to help save for the back-to-school period.

As usual, Start-rite shoes are proving popular, probably due to the fact that these are full leather, available in half sizes and with a width fitting, too. There is also a schoolwear guarantee.

Call on Monday to Saturday, from 9am – 5.30pm; and on Sunday from 11am-3pm.



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Evie's operation is a success! 'Daddy, my feet don't hurt like they used to!'



Dr Park, the 'miracle worker', with the Broad family – Nanny, Zara, Jason, Ellie, Sophie and little Evie.

EVIE BROAD, the little girl from Sully who has captured the hearts of the south Wales public, has had successful surgery on her legs at a hospital in Missouri, America.

Evie was diagnosed more than a year ago with a form of cerebral palsy called 'spastic diplegia'.

Zara told The GEM: "Evie's had surgery and all is going well. The results so far have been amazing!"

"Just the little things make such a difference."

"Evie has always had cold feet. As soon as she woke from surgery her feet were boiling with the blood flowing through her veins."

"We had never felt that. It was a lovely feeling."

"Two days after surgery she said to Jason, 'Daddy my feet don't hurt like they used to'."

"At that point we knew we had made the right decision."

"Evie's getting stronger everyday. Her feet look straight and her walking pattern looks better."

"We are hoping she will no longer need her splints."

Zara explained that there was a lot of post-operative effort ahead for Evie and the family.

"We still have a lot of work to do with building up her strength but her future is looking brighter."

"I'd like to thank everyone involved making our dream become reality."

Since last October numerous events were held across the Vale and Bridgend to secure the funding necessary to enable Evie to have the operation.

• Funds are still required to pay for vital after care and if anyone would like to help in fundraising, email: hopeforevie3@hotmail.co.uk; or go to the website: www.hopeforevie.co.uk/.

ART GROUP'S QUIZ EVENING

CANOLFAN Porthceri Centre (CPC), the group aiming to establish a cultural centre in Barry, will be holding a quiz night on Thursday, August 29 at 8pm in the Park Hotel, Park Crescent.

Entry is £3 a head and the evening is suitable for families. At the recent AGM, the group decided to concentrate on running arts events in Barry and to continue to support the work of other groups such as Art4U and Mike Duggan. CPC also remains committed to offering some Welsh-language events.

The next date in the

CPC diary is the return visit of Del Rey on Saturday, September 21 in the West End Club. Del Rey packed the club on her last visit to Barry during the Barry Arts Festival in 2012 and her return gig is eagerly anticipated.

Tickets are available from Mike Duggan on 07561 143114.

London Welsh

On Saturday, October 5, the London Welsh Male Voice Choir will raise the roof of the Memorial Theatre, where Canolfan Porthceri is pleased to be helping raise money for the local branch of the RNLI.

LMVC performs in the Albert Hall and other top venues throughout the UK, as well as touring overseas.

Their appearance in the closing ceremony of the Olympics was a particularly memorable occasion in the choir's history, and this is a rare opportunity to hear them in Barry.

Tickets are available from the Memorial Theatre on 01446 738622 or by going to www.memorialhalltheatre.co.uk. DC

Volunteers needed for 'garden blitz'

BARRY Community Garden & Allotment is calling for volunteers to join a 'garden blitz' day this Saturday from 9.30am-1pm.

"We want as many people as possible to come and volunteer to help clear up the garden by cutting grass, pruning, weeding and digging etc. There has been a lot of progress made already but we need a big 'push' to really get things going," said new manager Lisa Williams.

"We are encouraging people to bring their own tools on Saturday, including petrol lawnmowers and trimmers and in return we will be providing free refreshments and kids' activities, although all under-18s must be accompanied by an adult."

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Barry Mayor's cheques for two local charities



LAST year's Mayor of Barry, Coun Les Sword, held a cheque presentation evening in the Mayor's Parlour on August 14.

During his term of office, Coun Sword raised £1,886.54, which was



shared between his chosen charities, The Teenage Cancer Trust and Ty Hafan. Each charity was awarded £943.27.

The cheques were received by Debbie Jones on behalf of Teenage Cancer Trust (above left) and Rebecca Chick on behalf of Ty Hafan.

YFC VENUE CHANGED

GLAMORGAN Young Farmers Clubs would like to highlight that the venue has been changed for their reunion event on August 30. It will now be held at 7.30pm at The Three Saints Hotel, Llantrisant Business Park, and not at the Grove Golf Club as previously stated in last week's edition of The GEM.

Ken's dream of the 'Dolphin Bar' lives on to third generation of the Rogers family



ABOVE: Ian and Jackie Rogers.

In September 1999, charismatic Vale entrepreneur, Ken Rogers, announced that an exciting new venture was to open on Barry Island – The Dolphin Pub.

Now, 14 years later, management of The Dolphin Bar is being passed from Ken's son Ian, and his wife Jackie, to the third generation of the Rogers family.

Ken's vision of a thriving pub-restaurant at the top end of the

Pleasure Park with magnificent views in the direction of Whitmore Bay and across the Bristol Channel was achieved just before his untimely death in 2000.

Back in 1999, Ken told The GEM the touching reason he had chosen 'Dolphin' as the name of the pub.

"Dolphins have had an affinity with mankind ever since they have been on earth.

"I wanted to create a venue which reflected the sociable, yet peaceful nature of these animals."

Ian and Jackie Rogers have five daughters, all involved in the family's business interests – Kirsty (28), twins Christina and Sarah (26), Rebecca (21) and Danielle (21).

Kirsty and Christina will be taking on the responsibility for running The Dolphin Bar.

Naturally, Ken's life's work, and the legacy he left behind, are never far from Ian and Jackie's thoughts.

A Yorkshireman from Hull, he worked nationally as a market trader in

the 1970s, and on the Island traded from Cosy Corner and the Pleasure Park. In 1981, he founded the multi-million pound Hyper Value chain.

Ian takes up the story: "The Hyper Value empire eventually had 34 stores. In 1995, my father also bought the Pleasure Park. Because of the leukaemia, he could not travel abroad and the store group became his baby.

"He put a lot into Barry and left his mark – also regenerating KRs and The Dolphin."

The location on which The Dolphin Bar now stands was once an arcade.

Jackie is also from the East Riding of Yorkshire. "I was a friend of the family from Hull and came down in 1981, to work for the family business. It was just as the Hyper Value business was starting. That was when Ian and I met."

NEW ERA
The summer of 2013 has heralded a new era for The Dolphin Bar as Kirsty explained: "We will be maintaining the same high standards, but

modernising too. There are going to be live music nights, quiz nights produced by a professional company every Thursday with cash prizes, plus a return to the famous Sunday carvery.

"On September 6, we've got a performance from a brilliant, classic rock band Stonehouse.

"On Friday, September 13, we are going to have an acoustic night, giving local talent the opportunity to shine.

"We've already got a number of acts booked, but local bands are welcome to get in touch."

Jackie said: "We brought back the Sunday carvery two weeks ago, with fresh, local produce, and have been serving between 200 and 300 people each Sunday."

Ian emphasised: "People have already commented on our reasonable prices for the carvery and the drinks – we compare more than favourably to the well known pub chains.

"We've also installed Sky Sports in time for the new Premier League season."



FLASHBACK to September 1999:
Ken Rogers at the opening of The Dolphin Pub.

The Dolphin Bar is a popular venue for wedding events (particularly if people have got married abroad, and want to share a celebration with the friends in this country), for birthdays and for Christmas parties.

For more information on The Dolphin Bar and the events, including the acoustic night, call 01446 721888.

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A little adventure in 'stunning' mid-Wales

RECENTLY, the group were treated to two very different but delightful walks, one mountainous the other coastal, and the weather stayed fine.

Barrie's walk began from Glasbury on the border between Breconshire and Radnorshire where the village is separated into two halves by the River Wye, and beginning from St Peter's Church, fields and meadows led to Tregoy House once owned by Lord Hereford.

After a stiff climb through Allt Wood and morning refreshment, the slopes of Rhiw Wen followed, before the next steep climb up Rhiw Fan led to the trig point on Rhos Dirion where the air was cooler.

The visibility was superb with views stretching up towards the Cambrian Mountains.

A rather late lunch and a rest was enjoyed before they descended steeply to the common of Rhos Fawr where in 1943, an RAF Proctor aircraft, which was on a wireless telegraphy exercise in the area, crashed, sadly killing both crew members.

Reaching Velindre, they crossed fields of wheat and barley to make their way back to their start after what had been a very enjoyable seven hour adventure in the stunning hills of mid Wales.

GWENT LEVELS

Viv and Val, and dogs Mutley and Dougie, took their group to the Gwent Levels, where much of the land has been reclaimed from the sea over the years and is drained by a series of ditches, reens and gouts all behind the shelter of a sea wall.

The misty rain soon cleared to warm sunshine. They enjoyed having an impromptu tour around St Mary Magdalene Church at Goldcliff courtesy of a church member.

Next, they crossed fields containing some of the many footbridges in

the area, arriving in Whitson and passing St Mary's Church with its unusual shaped tower and admiring the medieval narrow strip field system behind the houses that are set back from the road.

They crossed more fields on their journey to the lovely old medieval village of Redwick where the village church has been dedicated to St Mary the Virgin and St Michael the Archangel, but has since reverted to its original name in 1576 – St Thomas the Apostle.

After lunch, it was straight down to the coast for the short tramp along the sea wall to Porton House, before turning back inland across fields populated with sheep to return by lane to their start point.

On August 24, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine mile moderate walk at Trelewis; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On August 25, meet at 9am in Cogan for a 10-mile mod/hard walk taking in the Goose and Cuckoo; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

On August 26 (bank holiday) meet at 10am in Cogan for a 9-mile moderate walk taking in Garth Hill, Taff Trail and Castell Coch; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Pets thanksgiving
OWNERS are being invited to "bring your pets along" to a Pet Thanksgiving service at Llanfrynach church on Sunday, September 1 at 4pm.

The church is signposted off the A48, a quarter of a mile west of Cowbridge. Parking available.

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Readers' Letters

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'EU jobs loss is scaremongering'

NOW we have an MEP telling us the benefits of staying in Europe (GEM Letters, recently), but I would like to take up one small point.

He gave us some good news, that he was able to negotiate an increase in funding for Wales, including £300m in regional funds. He is correct, but this money is for the next six years, and it is a cut in funding by £75m.

The EU Commission recommends how the money is spent, but he did not mention that.

We would be getting

this money no matter which Welsh MEP was in Europe. We are a poor country and we have had European money since 2000.

This is the third tranche and we still need it. Does that mean in 13 years we have achieved nothing?

Carwyn Jones AM said he was "disappointed" the overall EU budget fails to deliver the scale of investment needed to stimulate growth and jobs."

If he is disappointed, how does he think we feel? Also the 150,000 jobs in Wales put at risk if we leave the EU is

just scaremongering, since we import more than we export to the EU (this is according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research).

We do not have a strong voice in Europe, so don't be fooled by the spin. We are one third part of the UK, which is 3.57 per cent of the EU, making our strong voice 1.19 per cent.

Politicians have too much to lose if we leave, that is why they want to panic us into staying. We just want our country back.

Jeff Goodwin, Llantwit Major.

'Bus service was a vital schools link'

It seems that, for some as yet unknown reason, the Vale Council sees fit to reduce assistance given to the people of Rhose, despite the fact that the same council is allowing massive development of housing in the village.

The latest episode includes the 'combining of classes' at Rhose primary school, and now the cutting of vital bus services.

My daughter, and many children in Rhose, were regular users of the V5 service which runs from Barry, through Rhose and many rural isolated villages to Cowbridge.

This was a vital link for isolated communities, and in particular allowed Rhose children to attend Cowbridge Comprehensive school.

However, the service has been cut with no sign of any replacement.

When the council was asked why, it responded that the company who ran the service has pulled out of the contract.

However, they fail to mention that the reason for this is the reduction by 25 per cent of the subsidy given to the operator by the council.

Although children of Rhose attend Cowbridge Comprehensive School by parental choice, it must be remembered that when the parents made the decision to

send their children to Cowbridge, the existence of a bus route would have been part of the decision-making process.

The Vale Council has abandoned these children, and is also happy for many people who live in rural outlying villages to become isolated.

The council will no doubt state that its scheme 'Greenlinks' will address the needs of these villages, but I know from personal experience that Greenlinks is already struggling to cope with demand.

Children from Rhose who attend the Cowbridge school will now have to be driven by parents, or sign up with a private company at a cost almost treble the previous service and payable three months in advance.

The council's response to this is to do absolutely nothing – no help and no assistance in any way.

So, once again the residents of Rhose are targeted by the council... maybe it has something to do with the apparent lack of a voice that the village has.

Mr Gary Bohun, Rhose

• Email your letters to The Editor, Don John, at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk including your **FULL NAME, ADDRESS and TELEPHONE NUMBER.**

'Beware these scam callers'

LAST week's GEM carried a piece concerning a new scam relating to purported mis-sold PPI payments.

The GEM actually arrived through my letterbox not half-an-hour after I had replaced the 'phone following such a call, so I was pleased to see that this warning was being publicised locally.

In my case, the caller (who had a foreign accent) identified himself as 'Sam', representing a company called 'Customer Surveys'.

He alleged that I had recently completed one of their surveys (I hadn't!) using the internet (to which I have no

access). He insisted that if I hadn't done this, somebody else in my family must have done it in my name... Did you ever?

I brought the conversation to a close and I assume he then proceeded to call somebody else.

I do hope this wasn't another GEM reader! I find it disturbing that these people have all one's personal details – name, address and 'phone number, even when (as mine is) that number is ex-directory.

I do urge everyone to take heed of the warning put out by The GEM and, of course, the police.

This was not a very pleasant experience. (Name and address supplied).

Proposals 'threat to town's green spaces'

THERE are two applications currently with the planning department of the Vale Council that residents of Barry need to be aware of and concerned with.

The first is a planning application by Taylor Wimpey to build 200 homes on Green Farm, which is on the Cwm Ciddy side of Weycock Cross.

Anyone who travels along Port Road, whether you are coming from Barry or the western Vale, knows the congestion that already exists at peak times and the chaos additional houses would bring.

I would also ask residents to think of the green land that would be lost forever once houses are built on this land – and where does it end?

I accept that Barry has to have its share of new houses, as it is the largest town in the Vale of Glamorgan, but we need to be concentrating on brown field sites or small developments within the urban town that would not intrude on the few green fields we have left.

Think of the environmental impact building

on these fields would have on the wildlife and plants which currently live on this land – which, incidentally, is currently used for agricultural purposes and this is how the land is categorised.

In addition, the land at Green Farm lies outside the settlement boundary of Barry and in 1990 a planning application was rejected as "the proposal represents an intrusion into the rural landscape thereby damaging the amenity of the countryside".

What has changed since 1990? Plenty! There are even more cars on the road and even less green space for future generations to enjoy and the need to protect our rural landscape is even more apparent.

Objections to this application must be made by August 27, 2013 and you should quote planning reference 2013/000701/OUT. You can send your feedback via the Vale of Glamorgan Website or in writing to the Docks Offices.

The second application is what is known as a Scoping Opinion and this is at Walters Farm at Weycock Cross (the Hawking Centre side).

Although this is not a

planning application yet, it is the intention of Persimmon Homes to apply to build 500 homes on this land, yes 500!

All the arguments stated above for Green Farm ring true for this proposal too, but we are suddenly talking about the potential of having a total of 700 new homes at Weycock Cross.

The land at Walters Farm is also outside the settlement boundary of Barry and is designated as a site of special scientific interest, but also backs on to protected woodland.

A Scoping exercise is used to identify the key issues of concern at an early stage in the planning process and this will shortly be followed by a planning application.

Details of the application can be viewed on the Vale Council's Website under reference 2013/00565/SC2.

Please feed back your thoughts to the Vale Council on the scoping exercise but I urge residents to look out for the planning application and be ready to voice their objections to this application, too.

Coun Claire Curtis (Dyfan Ward, Barry)

'X91 BUS AND THE REDUCED SERVICE'

FOLLOWING the announcement made by Cardiff Bus that the X91 would no longer be serving East Aberthaw, Rhose and Porthkerry, I contacted the Vale Council to seek clarification and to see if there was anything the council could do.

It would appear that the Cardiff Bus decision has been made as a result of the introduction of the 20-minute subsidised service between Cardiff and Cardiff

Airport. The passengers that the X91 used to pick up at the airport (or at Cardiff for travel to the airport) will no longer be as many as previously, with the result they have made a commercial decision to by-pass Rhose altogether.

In my opinion, the express shuttle running every 20 minutes, 24-hours a day, and all year long, is unsustainable, and is not based on the pattern of air traffic at the airport.

We all know that it is busier in the summer than the winter and there would appear to be no need for this round-the-clock express service;

therefore, unless the express service is reduced, the X91 will not come through East Aberthaw, Rhose and Porthkerry.

I have asked the council to consider what action can be taken and if they can identify the numbers of passengers (with the airport and without the airport pickup) to see if the numbers justify the continuation of the service.

Of course, the decision rests ultimately with Cardiff Bus, but I am hopeful that common sense may prevail. **Coun Jeff James, Rhose.**

'Tar and chippings cost-effective'

IREFER to the letter from Kevin Watts in last week's newspaper headlined 'Why tar and chip roads?'

The tar and chippings which Mr Watts makes reference to is a surface dressing treatment which is applied to the road surface to help extend the life of the road.

It is not a substitute for road resurfacing, but an important form of highway maintenance to help preserve the road surface.

It is a very cost effective form of treatment, which is used successfully throughout the rest of the UK and Europe.

As well as extending the life of the road, other advantages of surface dressing (tar and chippings) include restoring skid resistance, which leads to improved safety for motorists, and helping to seal

the road creating a protective barrier between rain and frost which protects against potholes.

Readers can find out more about the process of surface dressing and its advantages by visiting our website www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/surfacedressing.

Regarding Cardiff Road: during the recent heatwave there was an issue with melting tar and loss of surface texture on this stretch of the road – we recorded a road temperature of over 57 degrees during this period which is extremely unusual.

As a result, this year we have adjusted the grade of bitumen which we use in our surface dressing treatment so that in future the road surface will be able to withstand high temperatures such as this.

The difficulty with getting the

bitumen mix right for UK roads is that it not only needs to withstand extreme heat, as this summer demonstrated, but also extreme cold, including snow and ice during the winter.

Our programme of surface treatment works has recently finished; however, Mr Watts will be pleased to hear that we are currently undertaking a schedule of resurfacing works on roads in the Vale.

These works are taking place every week (weather permitting) and we publish full details of the roads undergoing resurfacing works on our website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/currentworks.

Ken Evans, (Acting Routine Maintenance Manager (Highways) Vale of Glamorgan Council).

EXTRA TAX ON PENSIONERS

IWONDER how many of your pensioner readers aged 75 and over, have realised the implication of the extra tax they will be paying on other taxable income they may have, in addition to the state pension, as a result of the announcement in the April budget, to freeze their personal allowance at £10,660?

The purpose of the freeze is for the annual increase in the state pension to reduce the tax-free allowance they may have at present to

ZERO; thereby increasing the tax they pay on their other taxable income.

Depending on their personal income, this could result in extra tax running into hundreds of pounds over the period of the freeze.

I consider the freeze and its implication to be morally unjustified, to ask pensioners to pay extra tax whilst millionaires enjoy a tax reduction.

I would urge any pensioner who thinks they may be affected by the freeze to contact their MP and express their concern. **LM Scoble, St Athan**

SCARLETS SQUAD GET A WORK-OUT (IN MILITARY-STYLE) AT ST ATHAN!

L L A N E L L I
Scarlets rugby team were put through their paces at the RAF's No 4 School of Technical Training (4SoTT), St Athan recently.

The RAF Careers Liaison and Outreach team, led by Sgt Simon Jones, put 46 members of the squad, including a full back-room staff and the entire playing contingent, through three gruelling days of military-style pre-season training.

British and Irish Lion Jonathan Davies joined colleagues, plus internationals Rhys Priestland, Scott Williams, Josh Turnbull and Ken Owens, and focused on leadership skills.

"Making the right decisions under pressure and the ability to react and communicate are essential in a military context," acting Commanding Officer, Squadron Leader Simon Middleditch said.

"The Scarlets did remarkably well considering the early starts and long training schedule that was put before them.

"Mental agility and physical robustness are essential in the Service and I believe it was an eye opener for the team

to see the high levels of fitness to which the RAF work on a day-to-day basis."

The RAF Outreach team had devised activities that took the players away from the conventional training field and tested them with a series of unique situations and exercises.

These included early morning runs, low ropes training, assault course training, parachute drills, planning exercises, leadership and team building.

Scarlets head coach Simon Easterby, who lives in Cowbridge, said: "It's been excellent throughout. The players got a bit of a shock on the first morning with a 5.15am wake-up call and straight into some very physical activities before breakfast that set the tone for the training camp.

"They performed very well from the outset and really bought into the whole experience individually and collectively.

"It's been really beneficial to see how the players react to different situations they are not expecting.

"The players have worked very hard throughout and been really committed; I have been really impressed

how all of them have taken to the challenges put in front of them and it will be interesting to see how much they take out of their time here as we approach the new season.

"We've tested problem solving, leadership, decision making under fatigue, reaction under pressure and how players process information and communicate with each other to complete varied tasks."

Squadron Leader Middleditch added: "The type of training the team has received during their stay will have taught them a lot individually, how they work within their particular team, and how to get the best out of themselves and others.

"The camp was much more than testing the players' physical fitness,



it was about pushing them past their personal comfort zones mentally and making the most of this experience."

The Scarlets took part in a quiz night before presenting Squadron Leader Middleditch with

a farewell gift for their 4SoTT in the form of a signed shirt, framed and ready to hang in the sports bar.

The first game of the season sees the Scarlets welcome PRO12 champions Leinster on

THREE-MILE STRETCHER RUN.



LEFT: Simon Easterby presents Squadron Leader Middleditch with a signed Scarlets shirt.



ON THE ASSAULT COURSE.

September 6 with three Saturday evening games against Benetton Treviso, Glasgow and Ulster before Christmas, and the traditional Ospreys Boxing Day derby returning to Parc y Scarlets this year.

'Thank you to the unknown Samaritan...'

ON Wednesday, July 31, my elderly mother (Mrs Phyllis Thomas) decided to take herself out for a walk.

Despite being 92 years of age, she thought she felt well enough and would manage, as her walking aid had a seat attached for her to rest when needed.

However, just around the first corner – leading into Meadow Croft, Rhosce, she suddenly suffered an angina attack.

This, of course, frightened my mother as she realised she could not summon help, nor return to her bungalow unaided.

She sat down and hoped someone would see her... thankfully, a very kind gentleman driving home along the same route saw my mother, got out of his car, went for her neighbour and between them took her home.

Paramedics were called and an ambulance

took her into Llandough hospital. I am pleased to say that my mother made a full recovery and returned home later that same evening.

As my mother has no way of finding out who this good Samaritan was (all she remembers is that he was driving a white car), she has asked me to use The Gem as a way of thanking him – for without this help there would have been, without doubt, more serious consequences.

In this day and age, we read plenty about the horrors that some people find themselves in and so as a means to 'balance the books' – I think it worth highlighting the selfless act of kindness that these individuals showed my mother when she was so very vulnerable.

Thank you... whoever you are – you know who you are – so be assured of our grateful thanks.

Lynette Jones
Rhosce

LADIES' NIGHT FOR HEART CHARITY

LADIES can enjoy a three-course lunch, a sparkling drinks reception and entertainment by Ceri Dupree on September 20 at Penarth Yacht Club in aid of three Welsh Hearts charity. Contact 07730944700, or email fundraising@welsh-hearts.org for more information.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00665/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed orangery style extension and rear utility extension
Location/Lleoliad: 7, Beach Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00751/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Alterations and ground and first floor extensions to main house, erection of detached garage, alterations to boundary treatment, outbuilding forming barbecue enclosure and provision of terrace to front and rear
Location/Lleoliad: Causeway House, Causeway Hill, Llanblethian, Cowbridge

Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Llanblethian

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00752/CAC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Alterations and ground and first floor extensions to main house, erection of detached garage, alterations to boundary treatment, outbuilding forming barbecue enclosure and provision of terrace to front and rear
Location/Lleoliad: Causeway House, Causeway Hill, Llanblethian, Cowbridge

Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00657/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Internal alterations to Great Hall
Location/Lleoliad: United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St. Donats Castle, St. Donats

Listed Building/Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade I

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00663/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Demolition of existing toilets and cold store (not Listed). Extension of existing pub. Re-build of existing outbuildings to provide residential accommodation and shop
Location/Lleoliad: The Plough and Harrow, Monknash

Listed Building/Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00732/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Rebuilding of damaged pier and repair of boundary wall
Location/Lleoliad: Old White Hart Inn, Wine Street, Llantwit Major

Listed Building/Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade II

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00733/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Repairs to four roofs at Fonmon Castle and associated alterations

Location/Lleoliad: Fonmon Castle, Fonmon
Listed Building/Adeilad Rhedredig: Grade I

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00705/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Two ground floor shops with two bed apartments on two floors above
Location/Lleoliad: Rear of Nos. 16 and 18, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building/Adeilad Rhedredig: Affecting Nos. 16, 18, 20 and 22 High Street, Cowbridge, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00672/RG3
Proposal/Cynnyg: Removal of existing demountable classroom units and creation of new primary school building with associated playground, parking, landscaping and lighting.
Location/Lleoliad: Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg, Colcot Road, Barry

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00699/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Erection of an aircraft hangar providing a new helicopter search and rescue facility
Location/Lleoliad: RAF St. Athan, St. Athan

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00701/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg: Residential development of up to 200 No. dwellings and associated works.
Location/Lleoliad: Land south of Port Road West, Weycock Cross, Barry

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00724/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays to provide circa 7MW generation capacity together with transformer stations; substation; internal access track; landscaping; fencing; security measures; access gate; and ancillary infrastructure.
Location/Lleoliad: Land at West Hall Farm, Aberthaw, St. Athan

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyo o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./
Rhif y cais: 2013/00701/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg: Residential development of up to 200 No. dwellings and associated works.
Location/Lleoliad: Land south of Port Road West, Weycock Cross, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 22 August, 2013

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager, Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

CAT CENTRE'S OPEN DAY IS A STORMING SUCCESS – 18 KITTENS FIND A NEW HOME!

Photos by Mandy Thomas
and Andrew Hurdle
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk



ABOVE: Apollo the kitten.



ABOVE: Elinor and Evan from Brackla.



ABOVE: Coun Jeff Tildesley with Aysa and Sue Dobbs.



Six-year-old
Chloe.



ABOVE: The Mayor, Coun Clive James and Mayoress Pauline with cat centre supporters.



Cat carers Steve and Sarah.



Baby Matthew
and Mum.



Pirate Shelley Symons.



ABOVE: Teresa, Kim, Alice and Teresa.



Cameron and
Isabelle Cole.



£3,000 IN THE KITTY!

CATS Protection Bridgend adoption centre's pirate-themed open day was a great success, raising over £3,000 for the kitty!

The event, held on Saturday, August 17 at the centre, was an outstanding success, with more than 550 people attending, including special guests the Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Pauline James and the Mayoress, Coun Jeff Tildesley.

Attractions included treasure hunt, fancy dress, raffle, adults and children's tombola, a barbecue, stalls, and much more. Funds raised will go to

help unwanted and abandoned cats while they wait to find loving new homes.

Sue Dobbs, centre manager, said: "This has been our best ever open day, as well as raising over £3,400, 18 cats and kittens were reserved."

"We had huge support on the day so we'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported by coming along on the day. The money raised will be vital in giving local cats a second chance in life and we're very grateful to everyone who dug deep into their pockets."

For further information, contact Sue Dobbs on 01656 726621 or email bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk.

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA / IN BRIEF

Memorial service

A SHORT service will take place on the anniversary of the Parc Slip disaster – Monday August 26 at 8.20am at Parc Slip nature reserve memorial.

"A huge explosion at 8.20am in Parc Slip Colliery on Friday, August 26 1892 killed 112 men and boys. Only 39 made it out of the mine alive; 60 women were widowed and 153 children lost their fathers on that day," said Coun Huw David (Cefn Cribwr).

"The memorial consists of 112 stones, one for every life lost in the disaster."

The memorial is a five-minute walk via a footpath from Fountain Road. The gate will be open on the 'Cefn side' of the road located between the Parc Slip nature reserve visitor centre and the railway crossing at the Fountain.

Music for Barnardo's

WELSH tenor Wynne Evans will be presenting a concert in aid of Barnardo's Cymru at The Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl on Sunday September 8.

Described by Bryn Terfel as 'one of the best tenors of our generation' Wynne Evans has found fame – and notoriety – as Gio Compario, the moustachioed singer in a series of ads for a Welsh price comparison website.

Star of opera and musical theatre as well as a TV and radio presenter, his second album is to be released in October.

Wynne shares the stage with a 70-strong orchestra and chorus in an event that is the brainchild of local musician David Hughes, who will be conducting the concert.

**NEWS FROM
RHOOSE
LIFEGUARDS**

Club tastes success at Aberavon Beach

FOLLOWING a successful weekend for the nippers at the Welsh Ocean Championships, it was the turn of the junior and senior teams to compete at the two day event, this time held at Aberavon beach.

The competition kicked off early on Saturday morning, August 3 with fine weather. The Sunday, however, was much more of a challenge with consistent rain and wild sea conditions throughout the day.

The teams, managed by junior co-ordinator Steve Baker and club captain Simon Parker would like to thank not only the Rhose Lifeguards team for their efforts but also all of the helpers and parents who supported the teams over the weekend.

Particular thanks go to those who endured Sunday's wet weather to do marshalling and other duties.

In terms of performance, special mention goes to individual Welsh champions Jessica Wadey, Kelsea Peterson, Emily Baker and Ben Owen and well done to the members of the Masters (adults) team who competed.

Congratulations also to Masters competitor Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, who won gold medals in the Open individual races.

Georgia Wall and Emily Baker.

The Rhose junior team finished the competition in third place and the senior team took second place overall.

Further congratulations go to Rhose members Tanara (seniors), Jessica, Ellie, Sara, Kelsea, Will, Kathryn, Lauren, Kirby (all juniors) who have been selected for the Welsh team to compete in the Celtic Cup.

Medal winners in individual events are as follows:
Junior team: Jessica Wadey, silver surf swim; gold, beach flags; gold, beach sprint; bronze beach run.
Kathryn Gardner, silver, surf swim; silver,

ski; silver, ocean lady. Kelsea Peterson, bronze, surf swim; gold, ocean lady; gold, beach flags; gold, board.

Emily Baker, gold, ski; Lauren Blake, bronze, ski; bronze, board.
Sara Phillips, silver, ski.
William Parker; bronze, ski.
Emily Baker, gold, ski; bronze, ocean lady.
Ellie Peterson, silver, beach flags; bronze, beach sprint; bronze, board.

Alexander Parry; bronze, beach flags.
Ben Owen, gold, beach sprint; silver, beach run.

Senior team: Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, gold, ski; gold, board.
Riah Spickett, bronze, beach flags; silver, beach sprint; silver, beach run.



Laura Braggins and Tayla Edgerton



Karen O'Donoghue-Harris



Members of the girls' team



The senior mens' team



Alex Parry



Peter Lake with Kelsea Peterson

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Marathon walk gets a big finish at Rest Bay...



ABOVE (left to right): Wayne Warlow, Madeleine Moon MP, JPR Williams, Justin Hostettler-Davies, Phil Bennett, Coun Mike Clarke and Coun Norah Clarke.

GEM readers may recall that last week, we carried a report about a Bridgend man who had been walking around Wales to raise money for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research.

Last Sunday, there was a huge welcoming party at Rest Bay, Porthcawl, for Justin Hostettler-Davies, as he reached the end of a 650-mile trek that had taken 35 days.

Justin resolved to do the walk after his friend since schooldays, Gareth Hayes, was diagnosed with MND.

Jill Jordan, the secretary of the local MND association, told The GEM: "Justin was joined at Kenfig Nature

by PHILIP IRWIN

Reserve by between 100 and 130 people who walked the last three miles with him to Rest Bay.

"To greet him was The Mayor and Mayoress of Porthcawl, Coun Mike Clarke and Coun Norah Clarke, Madeleine Moon MP, and Wayne Warlow, the president-elect of the Rotary Club of Porthcawl."

There were celebrity guests too – Wales and British Lions rugby greats Phil Bennett and JPR Williams, along with cheering friends and family who came to welcome Justin home from his heroic journey.

Jill Jordan said: "On the day we collected £571.62 and donations

of £10,600.00 have been received so far.

"We are still receiving money from sponsorship so the total is yet to be finalised."

A spokesman for Porthcawl Rotary Club said: "Throughout his walk, Justin has been supported by many Rotary Clubs along the way and the Porthcawl club is proud to have welcomed him at the finish line at Rest Bay – an apt place-name for the end of his epic walk!"

Jill Jordan added: "It was a special moment at the end as Justin and his wife Kirsty, and Gareth's wife Tracy – accompanied by their four children – led the group of walkers into Rest Bay.

"It was a very emotional sight."

Bankrupt man is jailed for fraudulently transferring property to children

A 58-year-old Pencoed man, Michael John O'Brien, has been sentenced to six months' in prison, at Cardiff Crown Court, for facilitating a fraudulent transfer of jointly-owned property in the period of five years prior to the date of his bankruptcy.

Mr O'Brien's conviction follows an initial investigation by the Insolvency Service and a full criminal investigation and prosecution by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

He is already serving a four-month sentence for breaching Trading Standards rules, following an action brought by Bridgend County Borough Council.

The investigation found that just over one month prior to Mr O'Brien being made bankrupt on February 16, 2011, he and his wife sold their jointly-owned property in Pencoed, Bridgend, to their children with what is called a 'gifted deposit'. According to the Insolvency Service, this ensured the children did not pay anywhere near the true value of the property, as the gifted deposit made the larger share of the value a 'gift'

to them. Mr O'Brien's share of this was £5,725.

The Insolvency Service claimed that the transfer of property was carried out at a time when Mr O'Brien was fully aware that a number of creditors were taking legal action against him and that a bankruptcy petition had been issued against him. He was also aware that his joint share in the property was his only asset, they said.

Commenting on the case, Liam Mannall, Deputy Chief Investigation Officer, with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, said: "Mr O'Brien's conviction should serve as a warning to those who seek to avoid paying their debts by deliberately attempting to put their assets out of reach of their creditors.

"In this case Mr O'Brien sold his house to his children, making part of the transfer a gift. This is against the law relating to bankruptcy.

"The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will investigate and prosecute individuals who embark on such conduct and place them before the criminal courts."



Conductor Daniel (18) and debut orchestra score Mozart triumph

THE Sunday service at All Saints', Porthcawl on August 18, was different to normal, musically at least.

The mid-August service, when all three churches join together, was transformed by including a performance of Mozart's Mass in C, the 'Coronation Mass' with full chorus and orchestra.

The musical director was 18-year-old Daniel Pugh-Bevan, who has been organist at All Saints for the past five years. The event was his inspiration from inception to delivery.

Dan (pictured, front row centre) who has just left Porthcawl Comprehensive will be going to St Peter's College, Oxford to

read music this October and will be one of the college's organ scholars.

This was the debut performance for the Bridgend Chamber Orchestra, consisting of 18 young musicians drawn from the Four Counties Youth Orchestra, Bridgend Youth Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Wales.

They were led by Lucy Noden, another Porthcawl student, who will study violin at the Royal Northern College of Music this October.

They were joined by four talented young soloists, undoubtedly names to look out for in the future.

Angharad Phillips (soprano) currently studying singing with Patricia O'Neill, has been a

member of the National Youth Choir of Wales since 2011 and is also a member of the BBC National Chorus of Wales.

Angharad looks forward to continuing her studies at the School of Music, Cardiff University in September.

Rhian Cocker (alto) an engineering student studying at Swansea University, is musical director of the union's choral society – which recently won NUS Wales Best Society 2013!

Huw Blainey (bass) from Rhydfelen, a student at Rose Bruford College in London, is in his final year, studying actor musicianship. He joined Rhonda Cynon Taff's Youth Chorus at the age of 16, before auditioning for the National Youth Chorus, as well as

becoming a member of Only Boys Aloud! and singing with them for two years.

Miles Ashdown (tenor) is choral scholar at St Peter's, Streatham, in the Blackheath Chamber Choir, and holds a place in the London Youth Chamber Choir.

The Parish of Newton, Nottage, and Porthcawl choirs were joined by members of the BBC National Chorus of Wales and other local choral organisations, making this a true community event.

Rector Canon Philip Masson commented: "All Saints has a vibrant musical programme due to its fantastic acoustics and is a popular venue for all types of community event."

'OUTSTANDING RESULTS' FOR BRYNTIRION COMPREHENSIVE



THE A-Level performance of Bryntirion students was described as "outstanding" by headteacher Alwyn Thomas.

In particular, Libby Grindell gained a place at Oxford Lincoln University to study English, Martha Davies has gained a place at The University of Cardiff and Iolo Caudy

will study medicine at Cardiff University of Medicine and Dentistry.

Mr Thomas said: "Over 50 per cent of Bryntirion students achieved the prestigious Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification, reflecting the success of the year group.

"A total of 34 per cent of the examinations sat were awarded an A* or A grade, while 83 per

cent of entries achieved A*-C grade.

"The overall A-Level pass rate for the year group is in excess of 99 per cent, while 23 subjects had an incredible 100 per cent success rate."

He added: "It is pleasing to report such outstanding results from all students. This performance reflects a strong commitment by students, parents and teachers to achieve academic success of the highest standard.

"As a school, we wish to congratulate everyone and wish each student good luck and success for the future."

ABOVE

left to right): The following students all gained three As at A-Level.

Cathy Hankin - IT, maths, Welsh and WBQ; Oliver Jenkins - IT, biology, geography and WBQ; Libby Grindell - maths, English, French and biology; Iolo Caudy - biology, chemistry, maths and WBQ; Martha Davies - biology, chemistry, maths and WBQ;

Piers Townsend - biology, chemistry, Religious Studies and WBQ; Lyndsey Barker - Health and Social Care, Religious Studies and WBQ; Alice Bent - Health and Social Care, art and WBQ; and Sophie Deere - Religious Studies, sociology, French and WBQ.

PHOTO by RANDELL JOHN (LSWPP)
www.Randell.JohnPhotography.com
(01656 662324).

Community courses

A new website which lists adult community learning courses in Bridgend county borough, www.acbridgend.co.uk, also gives up to date news and offers.



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3 Bedrooms, 2 Recepts,
Conservatory, Southerly Rear Garden

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D64



**Whitewell Drive,
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E55



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D65



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3 Bedrooms
Garage
Rural Outlook

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E54



**Radnor Road, Boverton,
Llantwit Major**
3 Bedrooms
73' Rear Garden, No Chain

£180,000

E41



**Byron Court,
Llantwit Major**
1 Bedroom, 1st floor flat,
uPVC + Combi

£68,950

C80



Millfield Drive, Cowbridge
3 Bedrooms,
New Bathroom (2012),
Sought After Location

£220,000

D65



**Church Meadow, Boverton
Llantwit Major**
3 Bedrooms, Well Appointed Kitchen,
Family Home

£174,950

E51



Eagle Road, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Landscaped Rear
Allocated Parking

£99,950

D58



Pantycelyn Place, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Rear Dorma Conversion
Southerly Garden

£145,000

D64



Warlow Close, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Well Presented Family Home
No Onward Chain

£149,950

D67



St John View, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Village Location
No Chain

£155,000

D60



Cambrian Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
View To The Front Elevation
South Side Location

£165,950

D68

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D67



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D61



Livingstone Way, St Athan
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Requires Updating

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D55



Sea View Place, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
70' Rear Garden
Garage

£164,950

D56

Lets!

Llanmaes, Llantwit Major
E41 - £425 pcm
One Bedroom, Shower, Garden

Mallory Close, St Athan
D58 - £495 pcm
Three bedrooms, Kitchen/diner,
enclosed rear garden

Murlande Way, Rhose
D67 - £495 pcm
Fully Furnished, One Bedroom,
Modern Bathroom

Chestnut Avenue, St Athan
E49 - £525 pcm
2 Bedrooms, Refurbished Kitchen/Diner,
Additional Attic Room

Scott Close, St Athan
E43 - £575 pcm
Four bedrooms, Sitting/dining room,
Oven and hob

**Ffordd Yr Eglwys, North Cornelly,
Bridgend**
D68 - £575 pcm
Three Bedrooms, Two Receptions,
Large Rear Garden

Kenson Close, Rhose
D71 - £600 pcm
Two Double Bedrooms, Conservatory,
Front and Rear Gardens

Harding Close, Boverton, Llantwit Major
D59 - £625 pcm
Three Bedrooms, Kitchen diner,
Large Rear Garden

Kenilworth Road, Barry
D60 - £650 pcm
Three Bedrooms, Large Kitchen Diner
Utility Area

Maes Slowes Leyes, Rhose
C78 - £695 pcm
Three Bedrooms, En Suite,
Kitchen Diner

Church Meadow, Boverton
D57 - £825 pcm
Four bedroom detached
Conservatory

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Beloved wife of the late Ben. Much loved mother of Mary, Violet, Alfie, Susan, Patricia, Helen and the late Frank. A respected mother-in-law. Loving Grandma Rose to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A dear sister to Glyn and Violet. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Funeral Tuesday August 27th, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 12noon.
Family flowers only, donations in lieu if desired may be made to Ty Hafan c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoeed, Bridgend CF35 6SB Tel: 01656 860545.

GIBBON
John
Peacefully, on Aug 14 in hospital, John of Ystradowen, formerly of Cartreglas, Welsh-st-Donats, beloved husband of Jean, dearly loved father of Mike, Kaye, Claire and Howard, a much loved grandfather.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Friday Aug 30, service and cremation 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request.

WILLIAMS
Lucy Lorraine
The family would like to thank Doris, Thelma, family & friends for their support during this sad time and for their attendance at the funeral service and all the donations received in memory of Lucy for Pagets.

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Birthdays

Happy Birthday
MARGARET VANDERWARKER
on 23 August
Have a wonderful day!
Best wishes from all your friends at The GEM.

Happy Birthday...
Jeff Davis
on 28 August
HAVE A GREAT DAY!
Best wishes from all your friends at The GEM!

18 at last!
RHYS MALLOWS
Hope you have a lovely day!
Love Mum, Dad, Laura and Nan xxx

Congratulations

Congratulations
Chloe Sheppard
ON PASSING YOUR EXAMS.
Love always, Nan Sheppard. XXX

'HUGE RESPONSE' TO GEM ADVERT!

THE Belle Moi opening day in Barry on August 10 was a "huge success" – thanks to an advertisement in The GEM.

A spokeswoman reported: "We had an amazing response to our advert in The GEM, and great feedback from customers."

"On the days we were accepting stock we had some beautiful pieces, including Karen Millen, Ted Baker, Jacques Vert and Joseph Ribkoff, for every occasion be it wedding, cruise, work-wear or just casual. Now the rails are bursting with some stunning items, also shoes, handbags and accessories."

"Our opening day was a huge success – we had customers from Cowbridge, Llantwit, Penarth and further afield to help us celebrate our new venture."

"Customers' feedback stated "reasonable prices", "it's somewhere different in Barry" and "something for everyone in size 6-22".

"A big thank you to all our friends and family for their support."



ABOVE: Belle Moi had a successful opening – supported by The GEM!

£120,000 FACELIFT IS PLANNED FOR PARK

MASLIN PARK in Barry Island is set to receive a major facelift, after a specialist play equipment company was drafted in to work on £120,000 worth of improvements.

The Vale Council has appointed Wicksteed Leisure to carry out the revamping of Maslin Park, as part of the wider regeneration scheme for Barry Island. "The company has been designing, building and installing playgrounds since 1918, and boasts the widest range of playground equipment in the UK," a spokesperson said.

Planning for the project got under way with play experts – the pupils at Barry Island Primary School – who were asked for their ideas on

how the park could be improved and what they'd like to see in the finished play area.

The children helped choose the final layout for the play area, which will also include a multi-court for older children.

The council's cabinet member for leisure, parks, and sport development, Coun Gwyn John, said: "I would like to extend a special thank you to pupils and staff at Barry Island Primary School for their involvement in the project."

"The council has been actively involved in play area improvements across the town over recent years."

"I am pleased that Barry Island will now benefit from its own new play area."

The new play area at Maslin Park is due to be completed in time for the October half-term.

Charity car wash

THINKVANS.COM Limited, based on the Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry, is entering a team in this year's British Heart Foundation's London to Paris cycle ride, aiming to raise £2,500 for the charity.

A recent carwash raised £445, and the team is planning another on August 31.

Spokesperson Rhian Frewin said: "Everyone is welcome to come along to the car wash that day. The cash will be going to a good cause."

RNLI's safety message

FUNDRAISERS and volunteers at Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat station spent a busy weekend on Barry Island promenade promoting beach safety, and raising funds for the lifesaving charity.

They brought a D-Class lifeboat and handed out sea safety advice to the thousands of visitors who had gathered to see the Zap Cats race in Whitmore Bay.

Chris Osbourne, deputy coxswain, said: "It's important that we get the sea and beach safety message out to as many people as possible. "Taking precautions like wearing a lifejacket when on the water and swimming between the red and yellow flags on the beach really do save lives."

Small traders' local campaign



Alun Cairns chats to FSB south-east Wales branch secretary, Sybil Fowler, during his visit to Barry.

BARRY shoppers have been challenged to support local independent businesses as part of the FSB'S (Federation of Small Businesses) 'Keep Trade Local' campaign.

The campaign has been backed by Vale MP Alun Cairns in Barry, where he visited businesses along Holton Road.

Mr Cairns said: "I have always been committed to supporting

small businesses, so it was a pleasure to visit traders in Barry and hear about some of the issues they face.

"There are things that the Vale Council can do to support small businesses in our town centres, measures such as keeping parking charges reasonable and providing business rates relief."

"However, there are also things that we can do as individuals by supporting local traders and by buying the things we need from people in our own communities."

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10 10	TOYOTA AURIS TR 1.33 5DR RED	21000 MILES	£7,995
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Sunday best for the Cavs after convincing victory

THE Cavs' Sunday XI got back to winning ways with a convincing six wicket victory against Machen at Windmill Lane.

Stand-in captain David Russell won the toss and chose to bowl first against a Machen team who the Cavs had scored 252 against earlier in the season.

Machen captain, Mellor-Cretney (61) opened and hit 11 boundaries in his brisk innings. He eventually fell low to the pick of the Cavs bowlers, Mark Dowling (6-2-11-2) who bowled a very consistent line and length during his spell.

Despite a flurry of wickets, which saw Machen go from 90-1 to 103-4, the visitors still managed to post a total

of 156-8 from their 40 overs, thanks to a well played 32* from Steve Kripalani.

Youngster Matthew Clay (4-0-15-0) and David Russell (4-0-19-2) bowled well at the death to restrict Machen and were unlucky not to pick up a couple more wickets.

The Cavs reply got off to a very good start, with Tom Pritchard (20) and Ben Jenkins (86*) racing to a 50-run partnership off 10 overs

before Pritchard was run-out.

The Cavs then had their own mini-collapse in the middle order with three wickets falling quickly to leave the Cavs on 126-4. This was largely due to the consistent bowling of Jack Clifford (5-0-20-2) who bowled lots of deliveries at the stumps.

However, the Cavs ran out comfortable winners in the end with Dave Russell (11*) sharing a 34-run partnership

with Jenkins to see the Cavs home.

The Cavs would like to thank their sponsors: Simons Plaipe, Anthony Brown Estate Agents, Chiropodist Roz Couzens, Accesstraining.co.uk, Red Dragon Computers, Llantwit Major Autocentre, Jaipur Bangladeshi & Indian Cuisine and Nathaniel for their much appreciated sponsorship of the club.

BJ

Netballers claim league tournament

BARRY Netball Club seniors were celebrating after winning the Cardiff & District Summer League

Tournament on August 7.

They managed a virtual clean sweep, with only one match lost out of 11 played, though their final match against Leckwith was close, with a result of 17-15.

The squad consisted of: Jordan Dent, Rhian Griffin (coach), Meg Thickpenny, Sophie Hewitson, Amber Pringle, Jess Cottle, Georgia Hewitson, Becky Farr, Olivia Hewitson, Becky Akontopoulos, Meg Doyle, Cath Jones, Rachel Hewitson, Chloe Laventure, Natalie Ward and Alex

Denton.

The girls will now have some well-deserved time off before training starts again on Monday, September 2 at the Colcot Sports Hall, 7pm-8pm.

We welcome players of all standards so if you are thinking of taking up a sport to keep fit, returning to netball after playing in school or university, or looking for a new club, come and give us a try.

For further information, contact Julia on 07980 529470 or Alison on 07528 518025.

JH

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Cosker and Wright are batting for charity!

GLAMORGAN County cricketers Dean Cosker and former Cowbridge Comprehensive pupil Ben Wright today join a host of high profile cricketers supporting 'Batting for Charity', an initiative organised by County Championship sponsors LV=.

The initiative will see Cosker and Wright display an LV= sticker on their bats for the remainder of the cricket season and in return, LV= will donate £250 towards the NSPCC as nominated by Cosker, while Wright has chosen the Tom Maynard Trust to receive the £250 donation.

The NSPCC was set up in 1884 with the goal of ending cruelty to

children in the UK.

The Tom Maynard Trust was established following the tragic death of the Surrey cricketer, which aims to help the development of disadvantaged cricketers.

Mike Fatkin, spokesperson for the Tom Maynard Trust commented: "We are

very grateful for the donation from LV=. Every donation we receive makes a huge difference to the work that we do.

To have Ben championing our cause on the cricket field is just brilliant and we wish Ben the best of luck for the rest of the season."

Ben Wright added: "I

am very pleased to be able to support the Tom Maynard Trust this season. It is an incredibly worthy cause; the support the charity offers and the difference they make to people's lives is incredible, so if my donation can help the work they do, it's the least I can do."

Liam and Jenson land martial arts medals

RECENTLY, the World Martial Arts Games XIV took place in the City West Conference Centre in Dublin.

Local brothers Liam (16) and Jenson Rees (7), pictured right, competed as members of team Wales.

Students had travelled from America, Canada and Mexico and many other countries to take part in this spectacular event.

Jenson was first to fight on the Saturday, entering light continuous under-9s. He fought through the rounds and took a well earned bronze medal. Jenson also entered the semi contact category on the Sunday, where he took the silver medal.



Late on the Sunday afternoon it was Liam's turn to shine. Liam entered the age 15-17 semi contact category, which was split as the group was so big.

Liam fought his way comfortably through to the final, where he was beaten by a few points

and took the silver medal.

Liam is now in training as he is through to the men's finals of The Lordswood Tri Series in Birmingham in October. Well done boys, you did Wales proud.

LR

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3-Dr, in burnt orange, 20,000 miles, low insurance
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**ACTION FROM
THE DAY!**

P E N C O E D
PHOENIX welcomed the senior teams of Gorseinon and Maesteg Celtic to a pre-season tournament, with games of 20 minutes each way ample on a warm sunny day.

Gorseinon and Maesteg Celtic kicked off proceedings with an evenly-fought encounter ending 5-5: Lowri Harris opened the scoring for Gorseinon, with Elisha Williams evening matters up for Maesteg Celtic.

Phoenix met Gorseinon in the second match of the day, the home side stating their intentions from the opening minute, moving the ball through their backs before centre Amy Williams stepped inside before accelerating away from 60 metres to score at the posts; Lauren Aitken converted.

Back row forward Amy Stevens then almost increased the Phoenix lead, grounded

just short following a 40 metre break. Soon however, Phoenix got their second try, the pack going through the backs before the backs handled to put wing Leanne Burnell over wide out.

Phoenix continued on the offensive with an aggressive run from Stevens, handing off three Gorseinon players in quick succession and play swept to the Gorseinon posts for young second row Charlotte Mundy to score with a fine step; Aitken converted.

The Phoenix pack were now getting on top at the set piece, taking the ball against the head and they led 19-0 at the break.

To their credit Gorseinon opened the second half well and only a desperate ankle tap from flanker Natalie O'Shea kept them out.

Gorseinon continued on the attack before Phoenix scrum half Toni Birch won a turnover under her own posts to clear the danger. The visitors were enjoying their best period of the



**PHOTOGRAPHS by
JULIE HANCOCK**



match and got a deserved try from Lindsey Stuart; Eleanor Rees, in her first match for Gorseinon, converted.

Any thoughts of a Gorseinon comeback were soon averted, Burnell taking a Nerys Lloyd kick ahead at full pace before racing around under the posts. Aitken added the extras and Phoenix led 26-7.

Gorseinon got a late

consolation score through Becci Newton for a final scoreline of 26-12.

The final game of the afternoon between Maesteg Celtic and Phoenix would determine the day's winners, and both sides gave it everything, defending resolutely. It was Celtic who broke the stalemate with a try from a penalty.

Phoenix then gained a foothold in the visitors 22 and sustained pressure from the forwards saw skipper Lowri Reeves crash over to level matters and that's how things were at the interval.

It was everything to play for in the second half and with both teams well matched, a draw looked a possibility with time running out.

Celtic got the first real chance to snatch victory, a sweeping attack down the right looked an almost certain score, before Phoenix wing Hannah Seward denied the Llynfi Valley side, the former Cardiff City ladies footballer's pace very evident in snuffing out the threat.

Phoenix finished strongly and got their reward in the final minute as the ball was moved wide for wing Aitken to angle her run to the corner flag before cutting inside the desperate visitors' cover for the all-important score, with the Phoenix squad

members and supporters jubilant.

All of the Phoenix players were involved on the day and coaches Gareth Roberts and Alun Halse will have some selection headaches over the course of the season.

TR

Morgan takes international kickbox title!

RIGHT: Morgan Paget was a winner in an international event in Dublin.

MORGAN Paget (12), who attends Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, went to Dublin to represent Wales in the WOMMA kickboxing world games recently.

She entered the aged 12-14 girls category in continuous fighting and won first place.

Morgan then entered the girls aged 12-14 category in points fighting in which she took third place; and in the team fight, with two other Welsh girls, they beat team England, then took first place against team America.

Morgan would like to thank master Copp and Claire Vicker at Bridgend warriors club for helping her achieve her six world titles.

She would also like to thank CC Associates in Tondur for their sponsorship.

MP



Cavaliers see off Llandarcy

L L A N T W I T
MAJOR Cavaliers 1st XI welcomed bottom of the table Llandarcy to Windmill Lane.

James Snelson lost the toss and was delighted when Llandarcy opted to bat first. The visitors soon found themselves 0 for 2 after 3 overs; and batting proved to be hard work against a potent Caws bowling attack.

C Owen top scored with 17, and after a couple of rain interruptions, the visitors were bowled out for 64 in the 22nd over.

Julian Griffiths took two catches, included a brilliant one-handed side-on catch; James Snelson and Jono Cheal also took good catches in a fine fielding performance. Julian Griffiths took 3 for 43 from 11 overs but the star of the show was Gareth Hughes who had the new club record stats of 7 for 15 off 11 fantastic overs.

Gareth has been a revelation in the last couple of months and it has been brilliant to see another young player excel.

The Cavs set about their reply and, despite a break for rain, won the game by 10 wickets in the ninth over with James Snelson (43 not out) and Julian Griffiths (21 not out) thankfully seeing the Cavs home before any more rain could pause proceedings.

All the other 1st and

2nd XI games in our division were cancelled which was good news for the Cavs because it meant that there was no play in the first place Pwll versus third placed Baglan game, and they only gained four points each towards their respective totals.

The Cavs are now top of the league, seven points in front of Pwll who we play in a fortnight and 34 points in front of Baglan who we play next week.

DMC
Career best innings from Jono Cheal and Ben Jenkins were not enough to give the Cavs' Sunday XI victory on a batting pitch Sunday afternoon.

Chasing 300 to win, the Cavs raced to 44 before losing their first wicket which brought Ben Jenkins (77*) to the crease. With Jono Cheal (136*) regularly reaching the boundary, the Cavs gave themselves a chance of winning the game when they needed 120 runs from the last 10 overs.

However, a spell of bowling by John Painter (7-0-41-0), which both batsmen found hard to put away, meant that the Cavs fell 40 runs short of victory, finishing 260-1 from their 40 overs.

Despite their best efforts, and an unbeaten 216 run partnership, Cheal and Jenkins couldn't quite see the Cavs over the finish line.

Very busy summer at Porthcawl Bridge Club

DURING the summer months, Porthcawl Bridge Club members and visitors compete over three Saturdays for the 'Summer Triathlon'.

A player's best two percentage results from the three weeks determine their final ranking. This year Dil and Marian Evans sprinted into an early lead after the first week, but the pace was too hot for them so they missed the remaining weeks, preferring to cool down on a cruise.

This left the way open for Janet Richards and Sheila Storer to take the overall lead after the second week, but with Sheila nearing her 100th birthday, coupled with the food and drink at the cheese and wine party on this final weekend (thanks to the lady committee members), tiredness took its toll, which allowed the eventual winner to sneak through.

The results were: First - Tony Haworth; second - Janet Richards; third (equal) - Hazel and Colin Heard.

Other recent results are: Monday July 22: First - Pat Haworth and Dil Evans; second - Gary Williams and Tony Haworth.

Thursday, July 25: First - Gary

Williams and Pat Haworth; second - Marian and Dil Evans.

Monday, July 29: First - Trish Saunders and Trish Cogbill; second - Terry Dolan and Pat Haworth.

Thursday, August 1: First - Barrie Jenkins and Vanessa Beacham; second - Pam Munro and Megan Taylor.

Monday, August 5: First - Trish Cogbill and Janet Richards; second - Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

Thursday, August 8: First - Trish Saunders and Terry Dolan; second - Alwyn Hill and Ken Edwards.

Monday, August 12: First - Sue Anthony and Betty Longley; second - Janet Richards and Tony Haworth.

Thursday, August 15: First - Adrian Thomas (visitor, ex WBU president) and Wendy Williams; second - Betty Longley and Roger Plant.

The club meets three times a week - Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, 7pm-10.15pm. Visitors are welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

Pencoed RFC youth shine in the rain

THIS match between Pencoed and Bryncethin youth, was played over two 25-minute periods and then one 20-minute period, all in driving rain.

Early strong carries from Rhys Bargery and skipper Connor Jones took play deep into the Bryncethin 22 before the Pencoed backs handled and appeared to have lost a scoring opportunity. However, the supporting Morgan Jones scooped up the loose ball to cross wide out, and convert his own try.

Pencoed increased their lead in the opening period, Bargery getting two tries in two minutes, finishing strongly.

Dan Lockyear then showed good pace to open Bryncethin's account, with Paul Short adding the conversion

and Pencoed led 17-7 at the first break.

The home side came more into the game during the second period and the scoreline remained the same at the next break.

Pencoed increased their lead early in the final period, Rhys Clark putting in a well weighted kick for Keiron Drinkwater to take advantage of a home slip-up to score.

Outside half Jones then picked a good angle to cut the Bryncethin defensive line and score from 40 metres.

Pencoed full back Ryan Russell then completed the scoring with a fend off before racing in from around 45 metres, the final score was 32-7.

Liam Parish, Jordan Fox, and Jay Owen all came through well on their Pencoed youth debuts.

TR